The Official Magazine of World Championship Wrestling

Issue 22 December 1996

WCW Magazine

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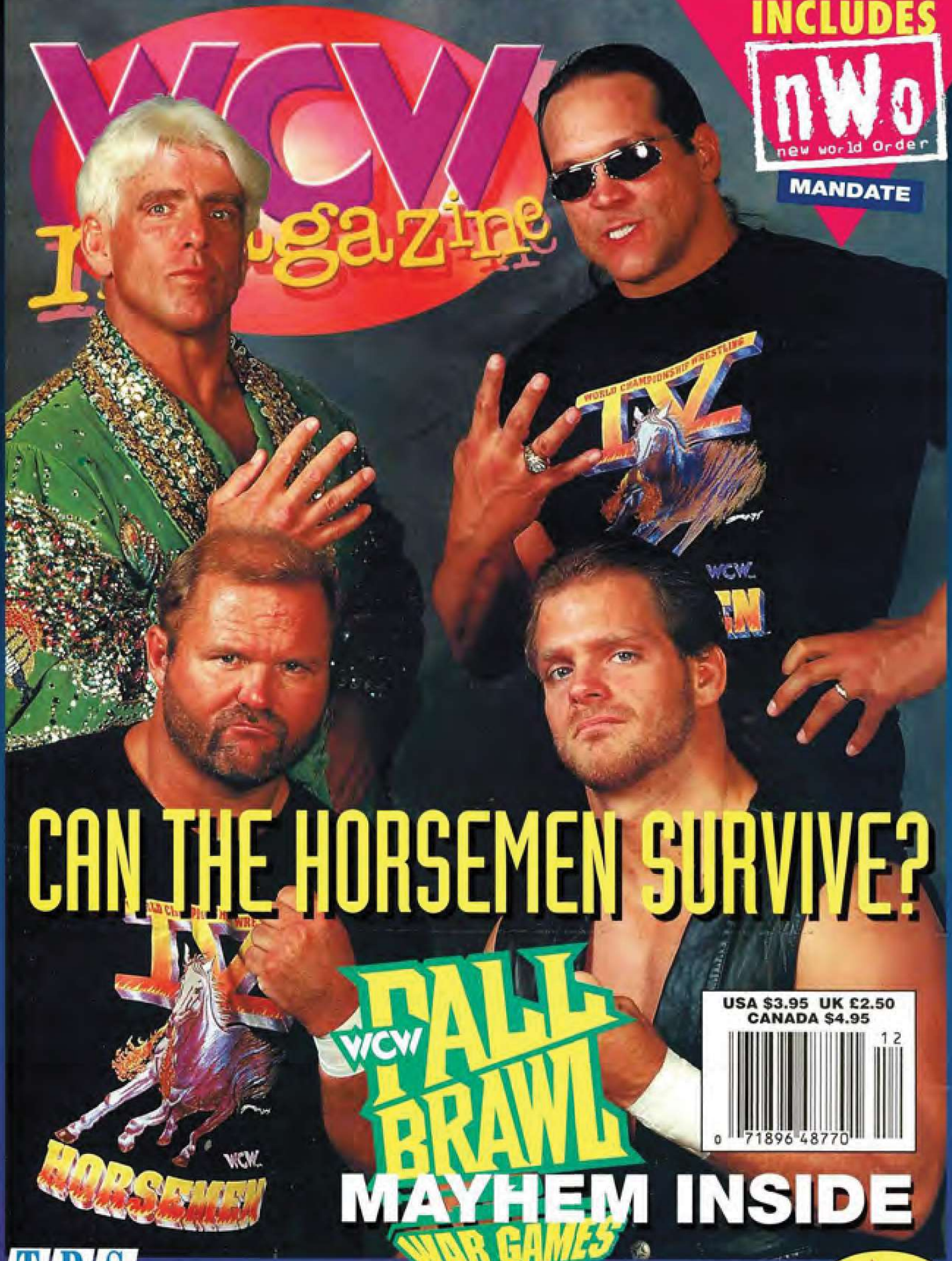

CAN THE HORSEMEN SURVIVE?

WCW FALL BRAWL

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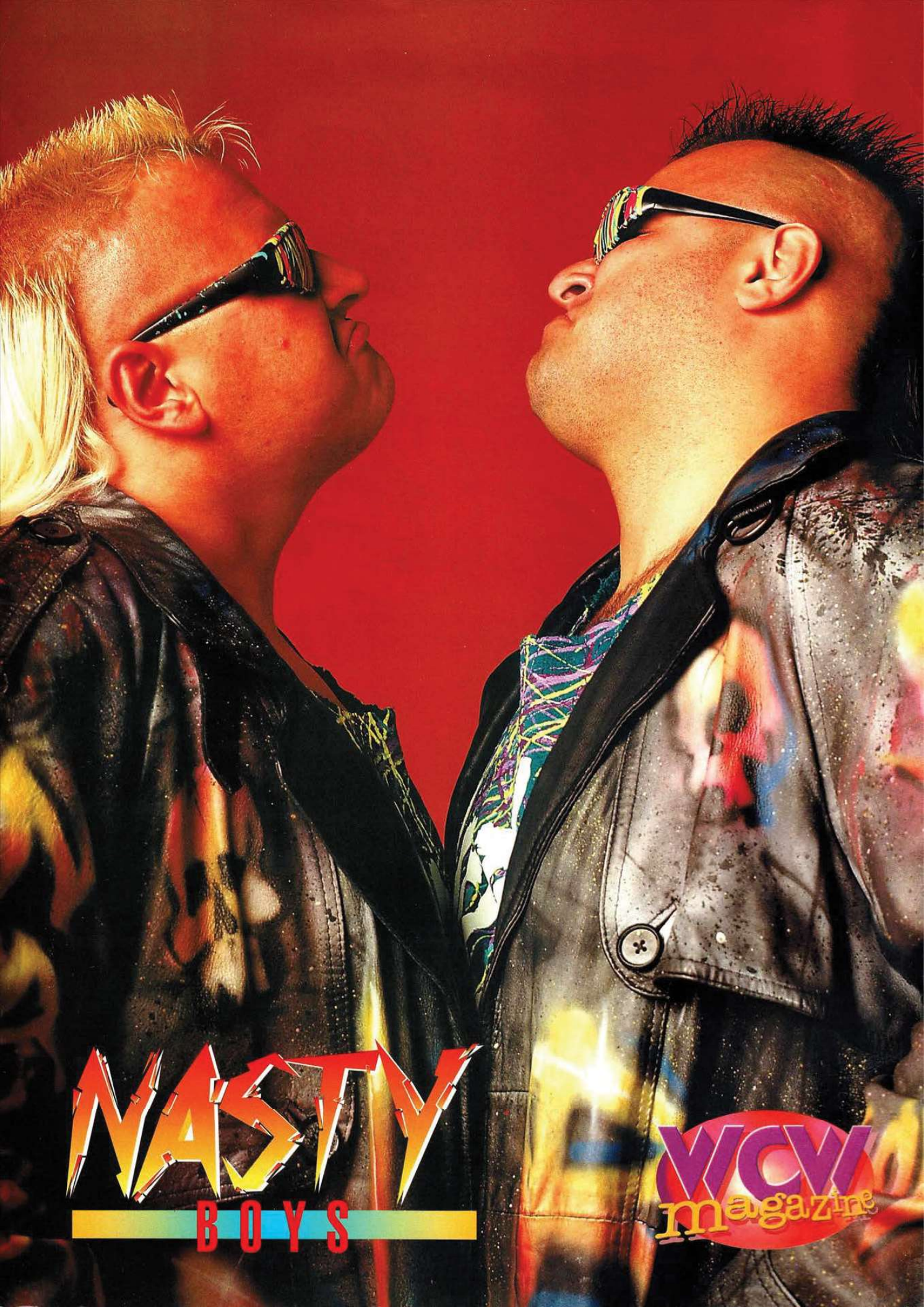
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Boy, am I feeling the pressure of doing this job ... and it's all the fault of The NWO.

First I want to apologize for the strange goings on in issue 21. Despite increased security The NWO were still able to sabotage our artwork and edit out my note and also place a poster of their 'leader' Hollywood Hogan in the centerfold.

Now things are getting worse. I have been informed by both WCW and The NWO that under the deal that was struck at Fall Brawl, 20% of this magazine has to be given over to The NWO, their writers and photographers.

I'm outraged! This is WCW Magazine. I want to feature those wrestlers who are loyal to World Championship Wrestling ... true athletes. Not a bunch of overrated, overpaid thugs.

WCW's officials have got to get their heads out of the sand. This threat is not just going to go away. The NWO are constantly out thinking and double guessing anything WCW tries to do.

I say it's time for the gloves to come off, let's fight fire with fire. Force The NWO to sign up for matches that favor WCW's wrestlers. Let's get them alone in cages. Use dog collars, bring back the kind of matches that really proved you are a real man.

If they won't sign, take legal steps to prevent them from coming near our events. After all The NWO aren't afraid to bend the law to their own advantage. We have to get down and dirty.

As for this magazine, my hands are temporarily tied. My attorneys are currently going through the Fall Brawl contract with a fine toothcomb, looking for the slightest flaw. As soon as they do, we will dump The NWO with the rest of the trash.

I would like to apologize to you, the true WCW fan for some of the nonsense, insults and propaganda you are going to have to endure in the meantime.

In the end, I am sure everything will work out and normality will be returned to WCW.

We will continue the fight on your behalf.

Regards,

Colin Bowman.
Editor

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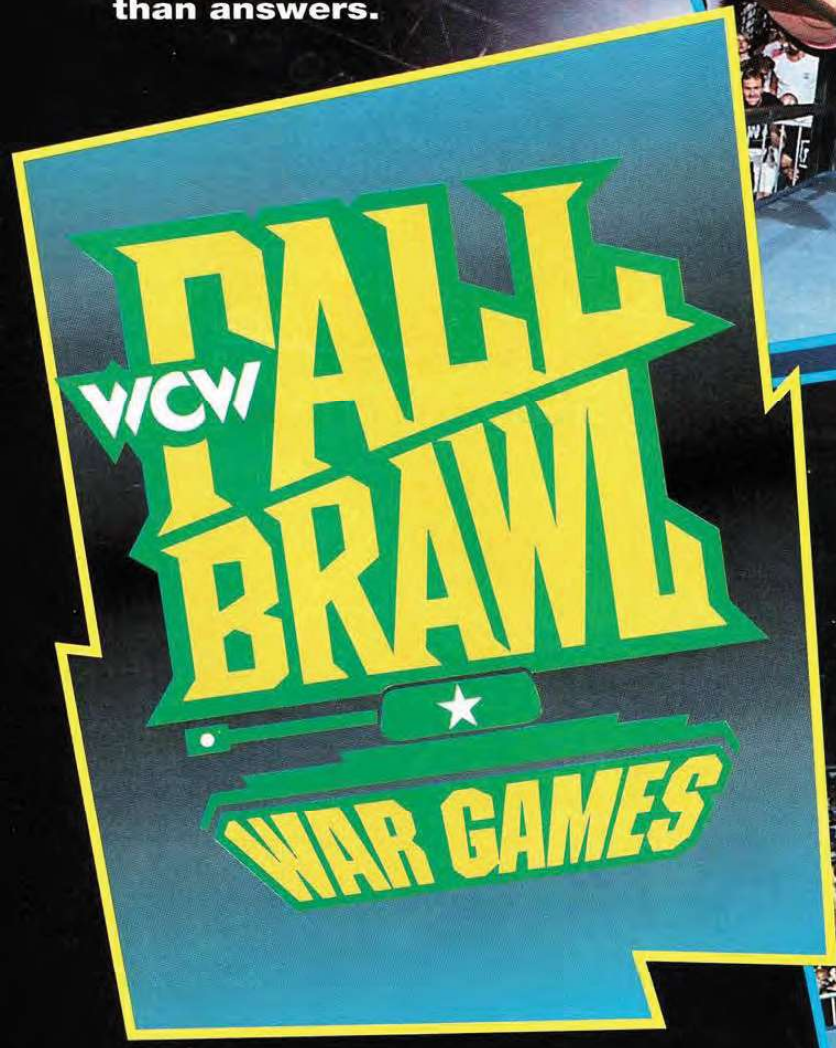
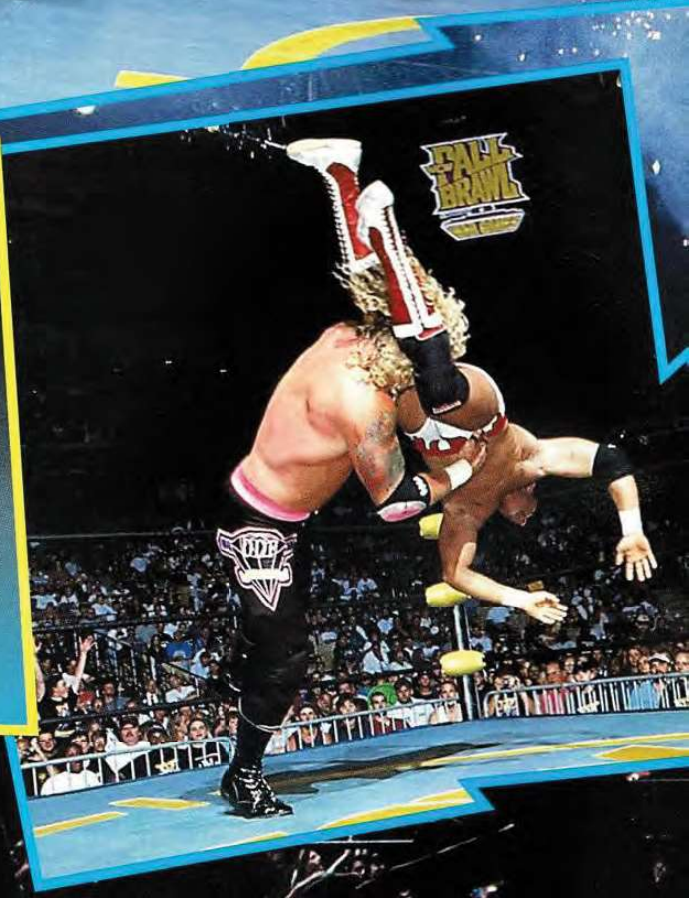
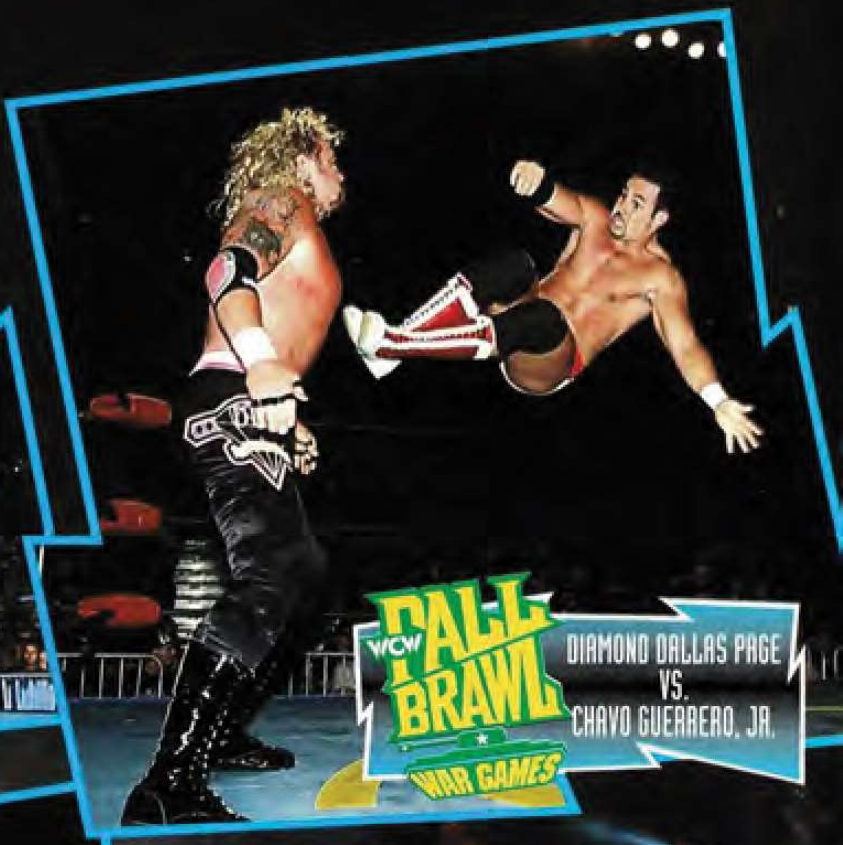
WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. - The 10th anniversary of War Games, held here at the Lawrence Joel Coliseum on Sept. 15, will go down in history as the night Sting, the real Sting, walked out on World Championship Wrestling. War Games, the double steel cage main event highlight of the Fall Brawl pay per view, could have been a resounding success for WCW. For WCW this should have been an evening to remember.

Instead, it was an evening that The New World Order will never forget.

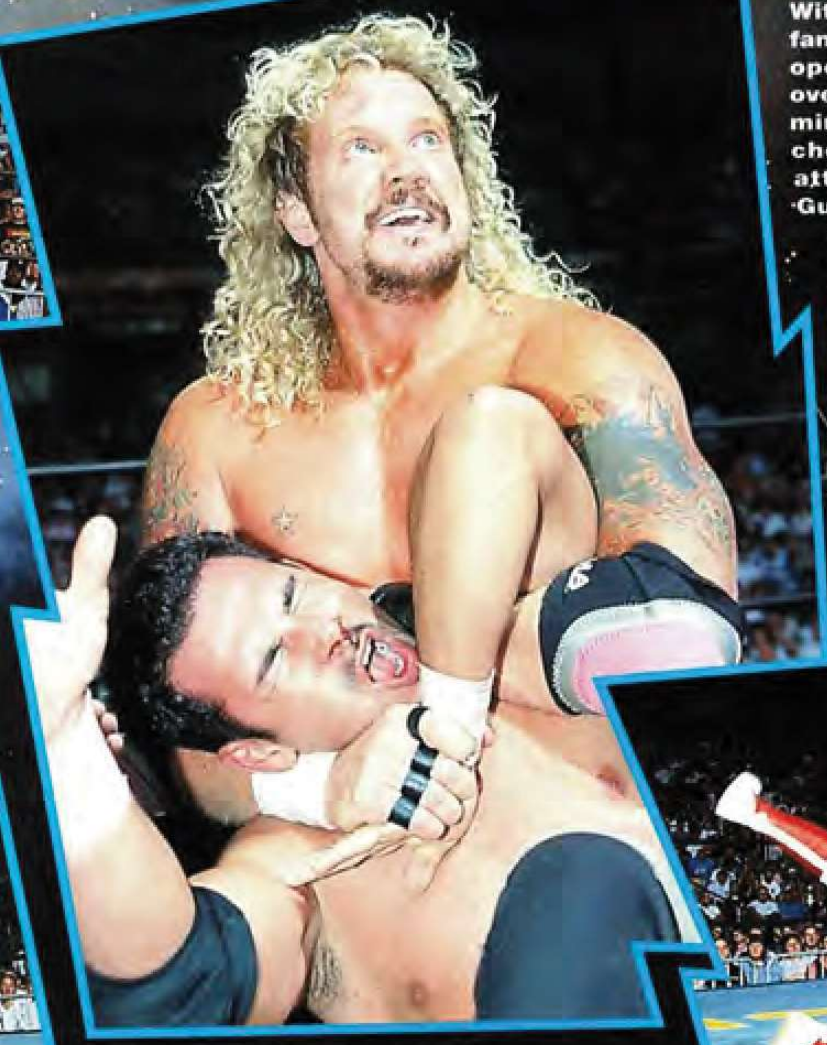
The Sting situation came about after an imposter, posing as Sting, wearing matching face-paint, ring gear and coming out of an NWO limousine, had orchestrated a Monday Nitro attack on Lex Luger. So, at Fall Brawl, all the world wanted to know, where would Sting's loyalty be? With his long-time employer, WCW? Despite the lack of trust shown by Luger, Ric Flair, Arn Anderson and the rest of the WCW establishment. Or with the money-rich NWO? That answer came at the end of the mega show, but left more questions than answers.

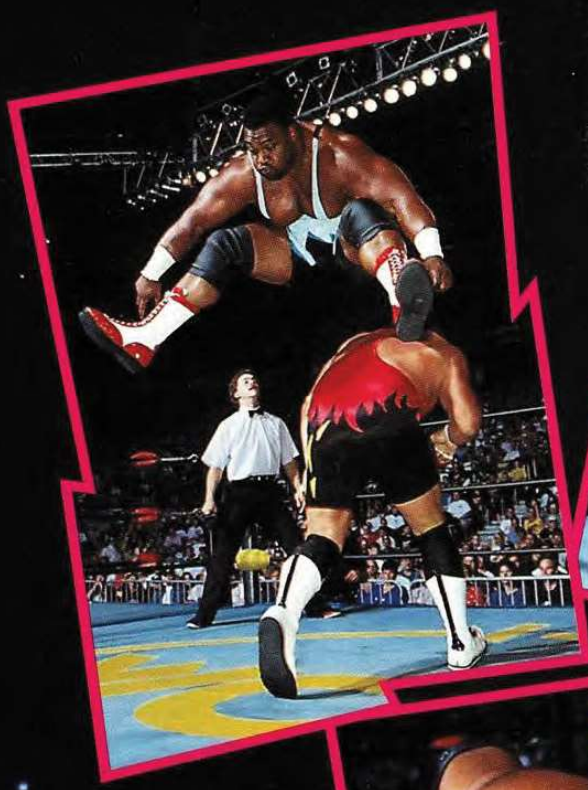


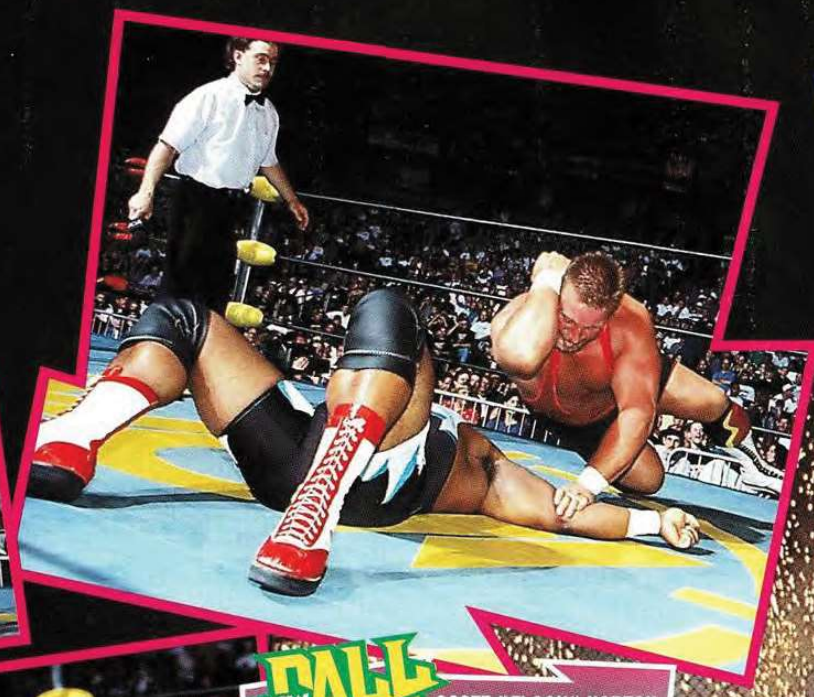




With more than 10,000 wrestling-starved fans in attendance; Diamond Dallas Page opened the evening's action with a win over Chavo Guerrero, Jr., in just over 13 minutes. DDP, who actually had a large cheering section despite his obnoxious attitude and self-centered ego, topped Guerrero when he reversed a backslide into his lethal Diamond Cutter. Each wrestler had several two-counts during this nip and tuck grudge match. Guerrero's offense included a flying huracanrana, a springboard clothesline and a dropkick off the top rope. Page offered, among other things, a third-rope attack that, it would have seemed, would be out-of-bounds for Page. But not so, he was effective and barked after the match, "Never underestimate DDP. When you least expect something from DDP, that's when you'll get it."

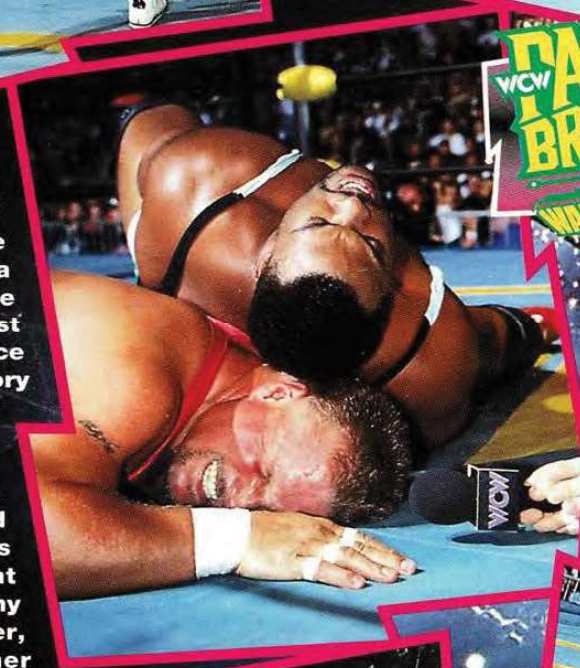






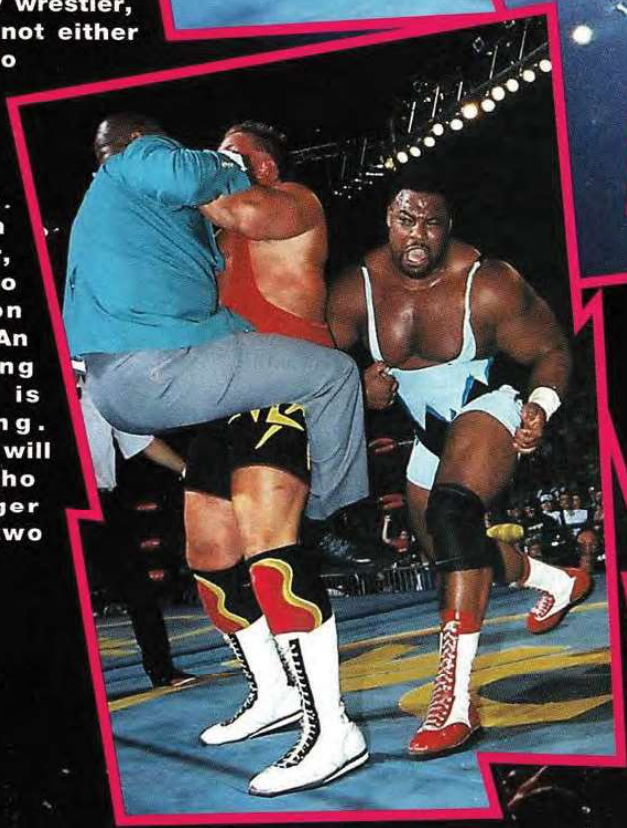
WCW BRAWL
WAR GAMES

SCOTT "FLASH" NORTON
VS.
ICE TRAIN

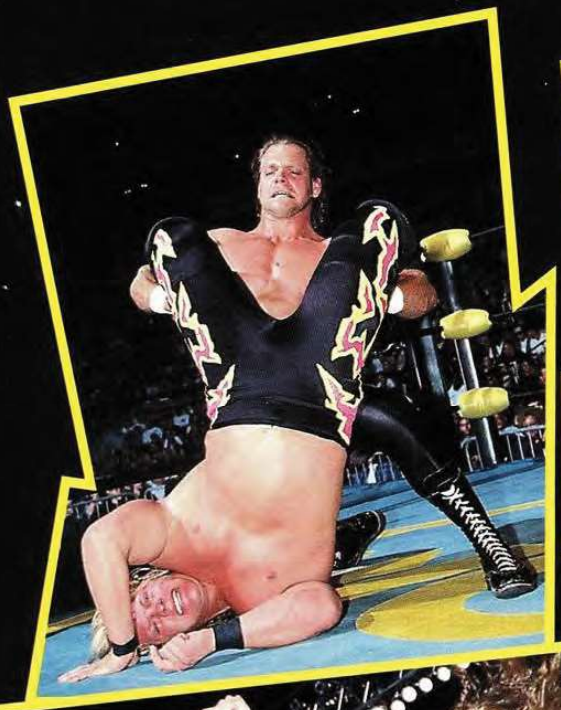


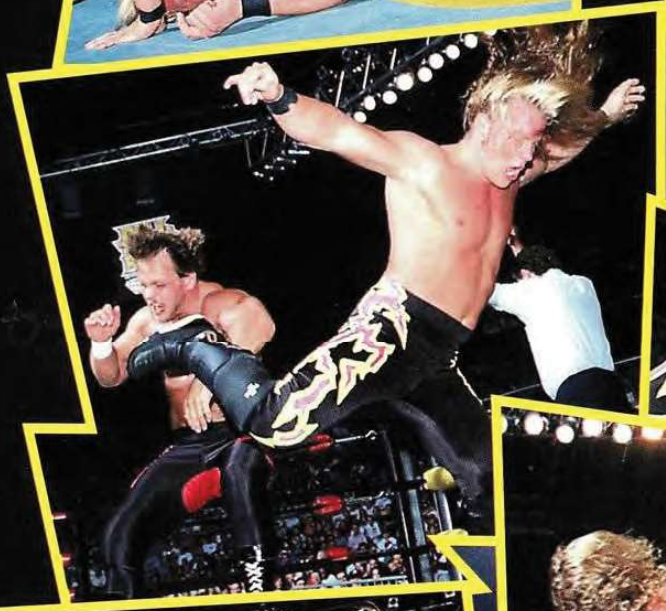
The split-up of Fire & Ice (Scott "Flash" Norton and Ice Train) resulted in a submission match here on the PPV. And in just over seven minutes, Ice Train scored the victory when he got Norton to say "Uncle", due to the pain inflicted by his full nelson. The match featured running clotheslines and arm-breakers that would have put out any other ordinary wrestler, but certainly not either of these two gargantuans.

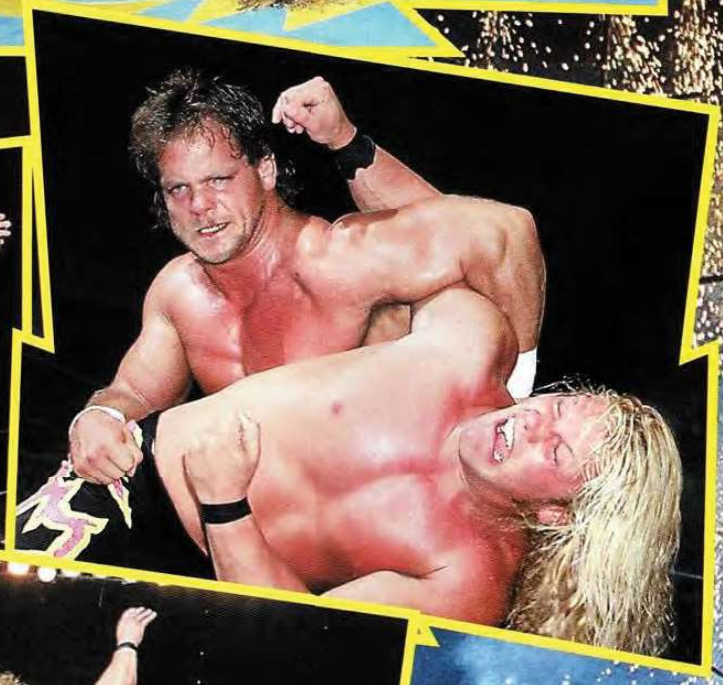
The Fire & Ice feud was hardly settled in North Carolina, nor a month earlier, when they also did battle on a WCW PPV. An arm-wrestling contest is forthcoming. Perhaps that will determine who is the stronger of these two monsters.

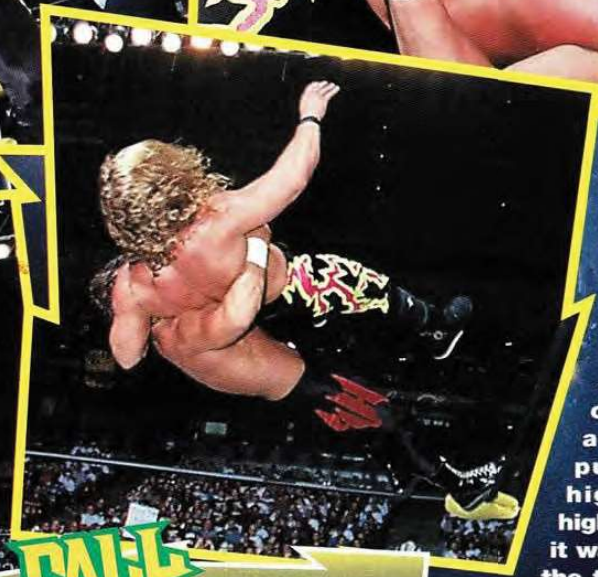


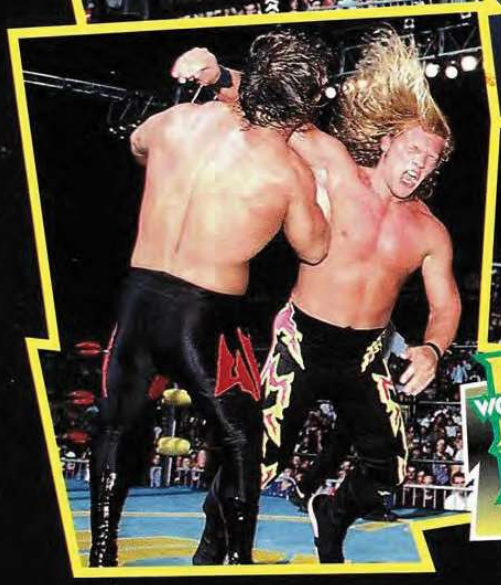
Konan came to town with his new attitude, new ring attire and the same old killer instinct that's been a part of this veteran Latino, since he joined The Dungeon of Doom. He also came with the Mexican Heavyweight Championship, a title that loomed large in Guerrera's eyes since he could bring pride to the belt with a win. And Guerrera pulled out all stops in this, near 14 minute match. Guerrera took full advantage of the double ring set-up, springboarding off the ropes in both rings. Later, Guerrera's offense included an amazing triple springboard into a bodyblock. When the action went out of the ring, it was just as intense as inside. Consider; Konan reversed a springboard huracanrana off the guard rail into a power bomb on the floor. Konan's offense also included a jackknife and, ultimately, a power bomb from the second rope to secure the win.







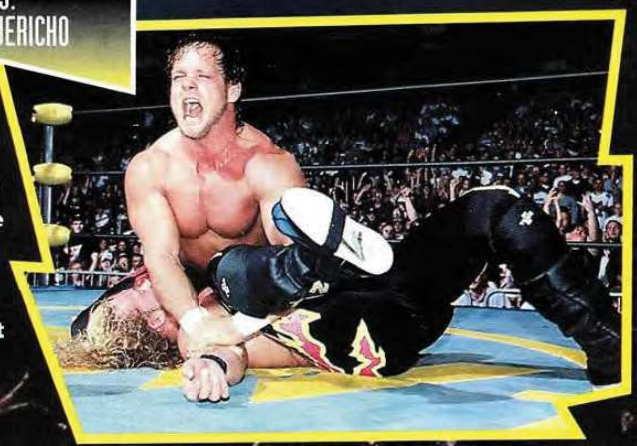




WCW FALL BRAWL WAR GAMES

CHRIS BENOIT VS. CHRIS JERICHO

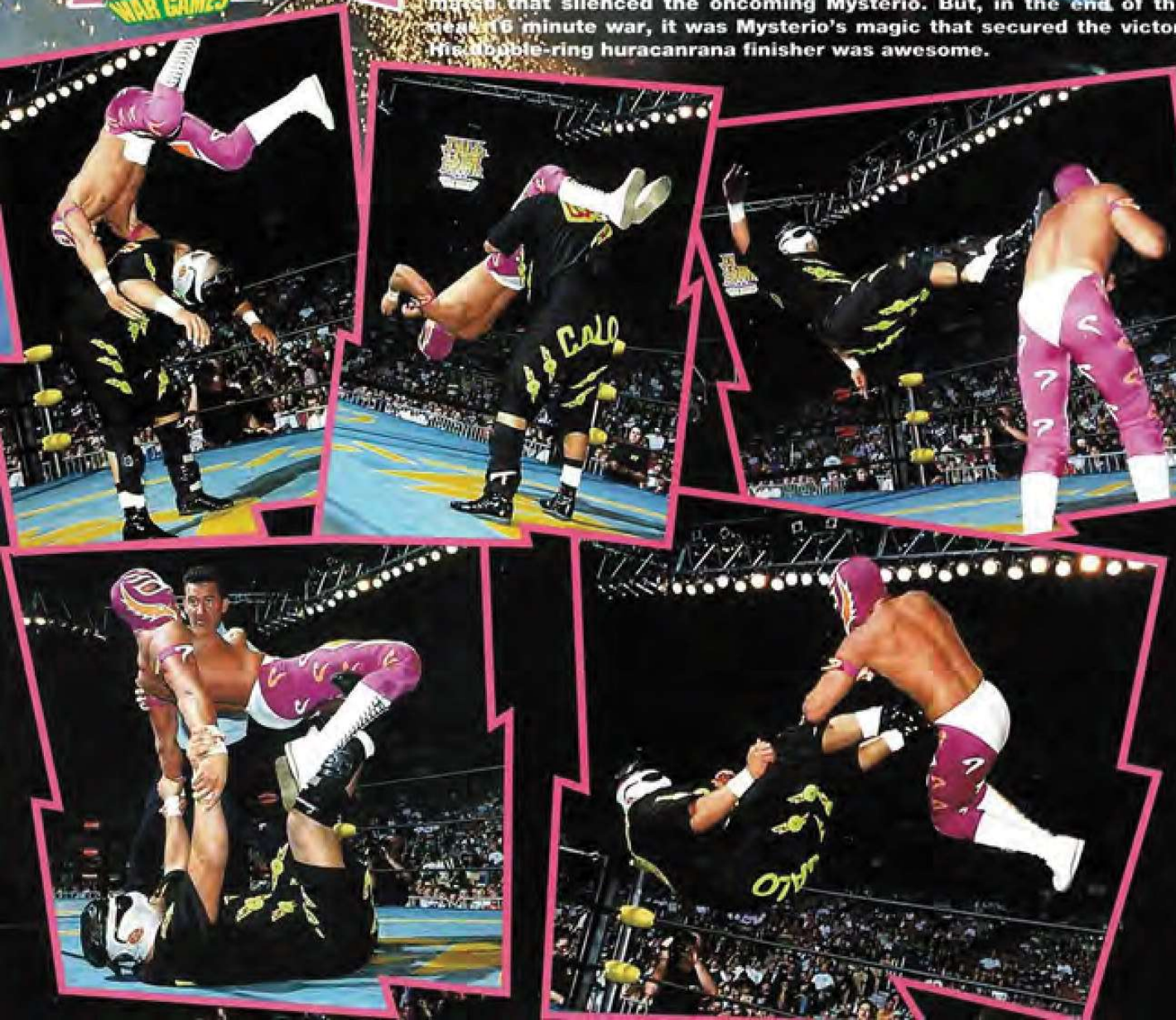
Take two Canadian kids named Chris, each with a wealth of wrestling experience dating back to their days in the Stu Hart Dungeon in Calgary, and the setting is made for a classic confrontation. That certainly was the case at Fall Brawl when Benoit put The Four Horsemen's reputation on the line against WCW newcomer Jericho. The established Benoit won this battle in 14:30, but not before Jericho showed he, too, is capable of competing with the big boys of WCW. Jericho mounted offense inside the ring and out; he delivered punches, kicks and high-risk move after high-risk move. In the end, it was Benoit who recorded the three-count with a back suplex off the top rope.



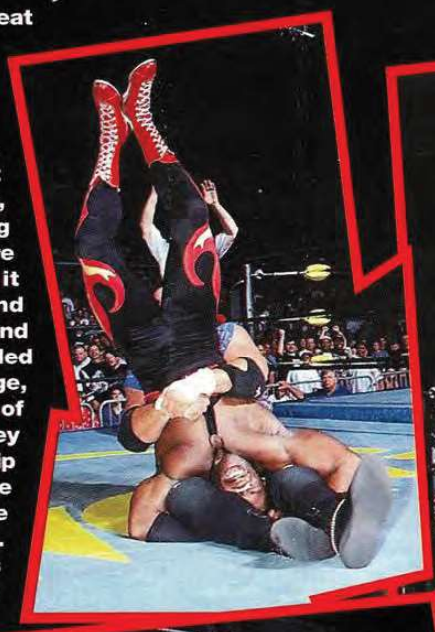
WCW FALL BRAWL
WAR GAMES

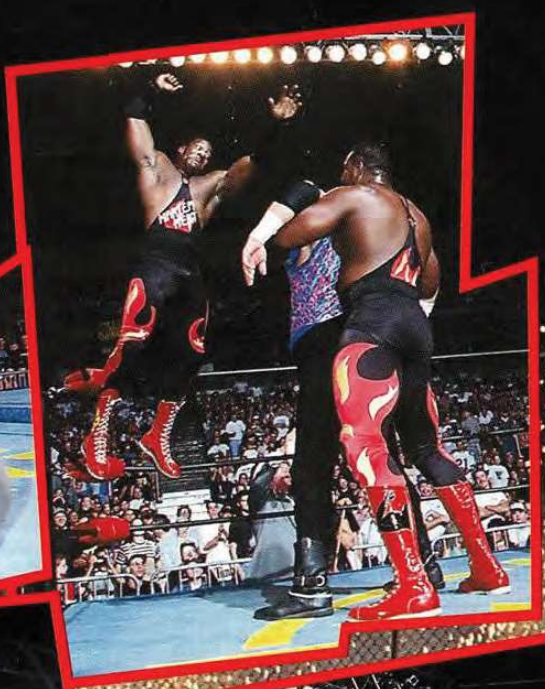
REY MYSTERIO, JR.
VS.
SUPER CALO

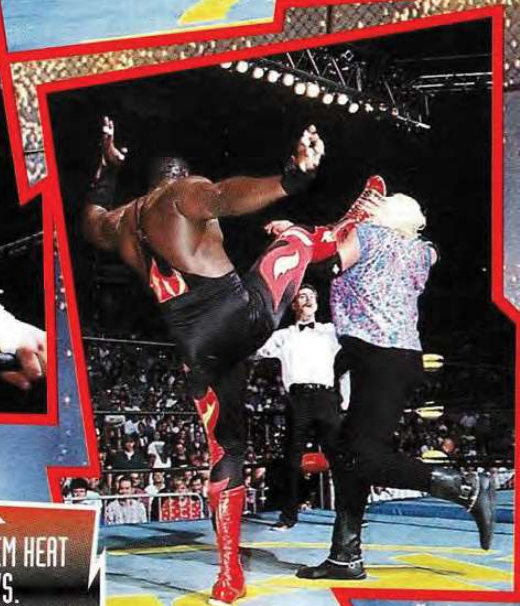
Cruiserweight competition continued, in show stealing form. The Champion, Rey Mysterio, Jr., went against fellow countryman Super Calo, in a match that certainly will be a leading candidate for Match of the Year voting. Super Calo, another newcomer to WCW, showed an aerial attack that rivals any. His dropkick off the low rope, to the floor was amazing, as was his dropkick later in the match that silenced the oncoming Mysterio. But, in the end of this, near 15 minute war, it was Mysterio's magic that secured the victory. His double-ring huracanrana finisher was awesome.



It was weeks earlier that Harlem Heat broke sport's 'Cardinal Rule No. 1'; never give your opponent added incentive with verbal comments, stuff that can, and is, hung on locker room walls. Well, weeks before Fall Brawl, Harlem Heat shot their mouths off on a Monday Nitro, degrading The Nasty Boys and saying how they had whupped them before and would have no trouble doing it again. At the time, Brian Knobs and Jerry Sags attacked Heat from behind and left the Harlem bad boys sprawled out on the ground. That's why revenge, believe it or not, was on the minds of Stevie Ray and Booker T. when they put the WCW Tag Team Championship on the line at Fall Brawl. The 15-minute match featured the normal offense from each team. The Nasty Boys used their fists like Frisbees, they threw them all around, while the Heat used everything including the Harlem Sidekick. In the end, it was Col. Robert Parker's cane, broken over the head of Knobs by Sister Sherri, that led to the three-count in about 15:30 for Booker T.

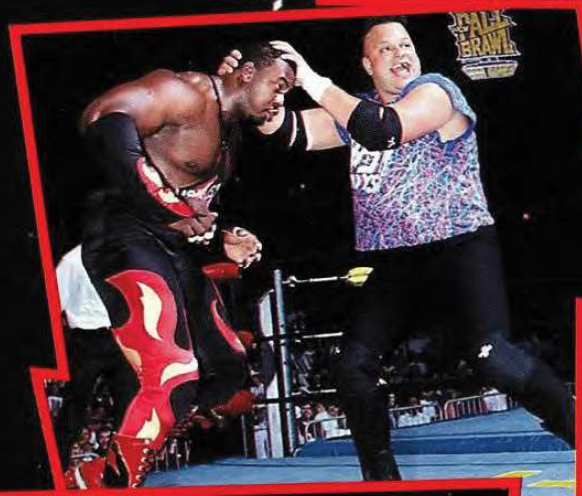


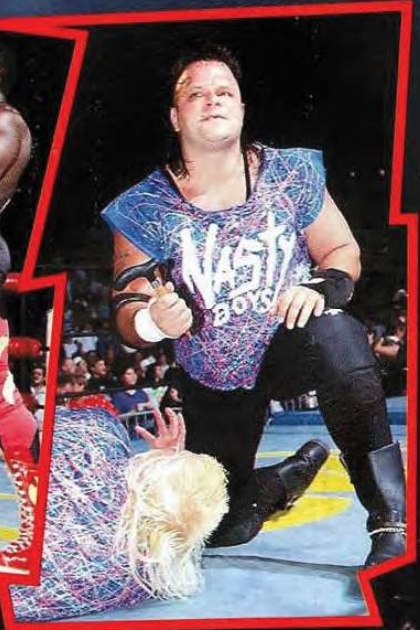


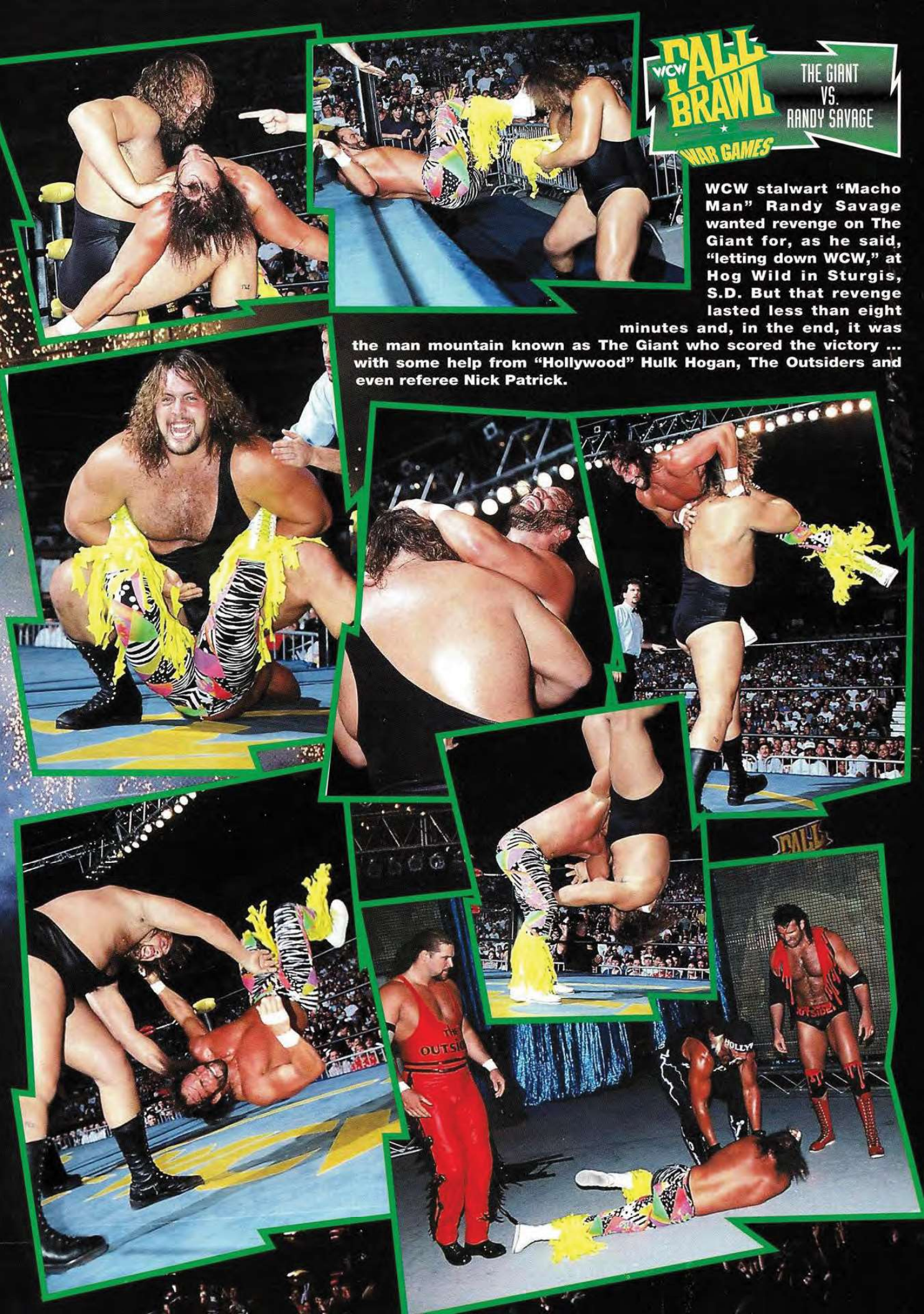


WCW FALL BRAWL WAR GAMES

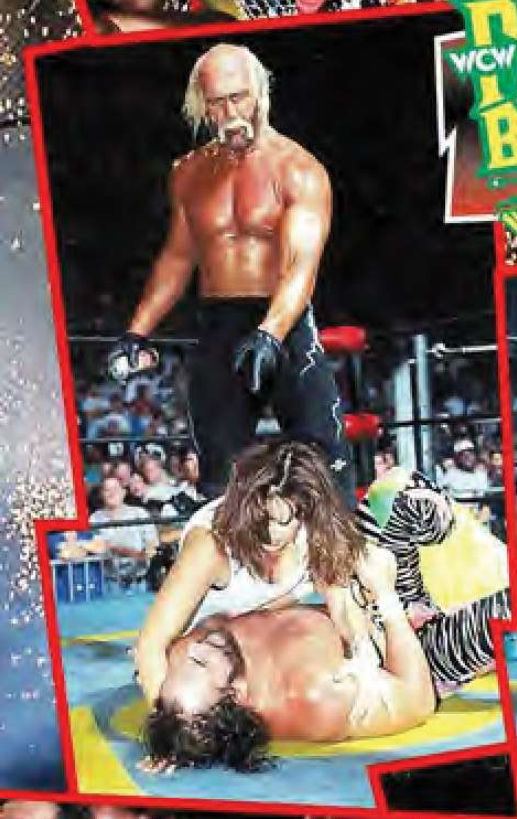
HARLEM HEAT VS. THE NASTY BOYS

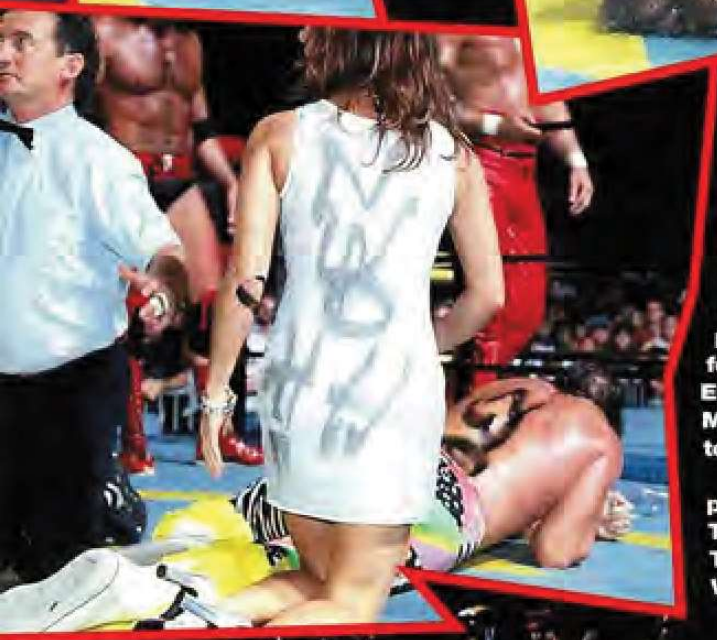


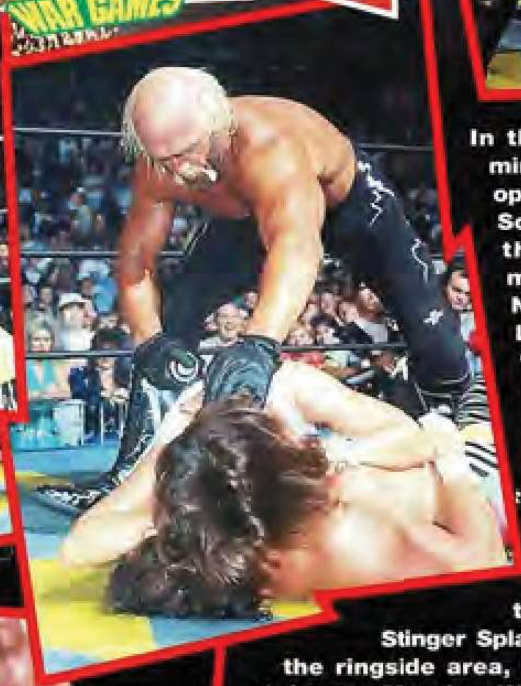




WCW stalwart "Macho Man" Randy Savage wanted revenge on The Giant for, as he said, "letting down WCW," at Hog Wild in Sturgis, S.D. But that revenge lasted less than eight minutes and, in the end, it was the man mountain known as The Giant who scored the victory ... with some help from "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan, The Outsiders and even referee Nick Patrick.







In the show's finale, the near 20 minute War Games, Arn Anderson opened the action for WCW against Scott Hall of The NWO. Hall had the best of Anderson for the majority of the first five minutes. Next in was Nash, before Lex Luger arrived to even the score. "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan was next, followed by "Nature Boy" Ric Flair and the imposter Sting. The NWO's Sting delivered Stinger Splashes to each WCW combatant. Enter the real deal, the Sting who we have grown to love and admire. Despite the tension between him and the rest of WCW, He delivered Stinger Splashes to each NWO'er. Then left the ringside area, infuriated with WCW. The next night, on Monday Nitro, Sting declared himself a "free agent."

Although the Fall Brawl matches were over, the in-ring excitement was hardly complete. Flair and Anderson brawled with The NWO members. Savage then ran out, but was quickly stopped by The Giant. What followed was among one of the most reprehensible acts ever seen in pro wrestling. The NWO beat and pummelled Savage to no end. They even spray-painted the former WCW Heavyweight Champion. Enter The Lovely Miss Elizabeth. She threw herself over the motionless "Macho Man" in his defense, The NWO proceeded to spray-paint her, too. Then, to make matters worse, Hogan spat on her.

As a result of WCW's Fall Brawl loss, and a mysterious pre-event agreement between WCW's Eric Bischoff and The NWO's Ted DiBiase, The NWO will receive its own TV show and, among other things, ample space in WCW Magazine.

The fall-out from Fall Brawl will be long-lasting, that's for sure.

can the HORSEMEN survive?

He has blue jeans, gym shoes and is shirtless; that is standard attire for this blue-collar battler as he sips coffee hours before his Halloween Havoc encounter with Lex Luger. His gold-rimmed glasses show his intellectual side. Arn Anderson, the devious mind of The Four Horsemen, is the consummate pro. He's an over-achiever excelling with 30:50 eye-sight and a legendary family-tree (Ole and Gene) to follow. Anderson has since grown into the most under-rated wrestler in WCW. In WCW history, that is.

"I think the only way to stay focused is to realize that this is a business, and you have to treat it like a business," said Anderson, who speaks softly but carries one deadly left-hook. "Where people get in the way of their own success is, i.e. with their ego. The Horsemen don't have an ego, per se, professionally as much as we do business-wise. If we're not winning, we're not making money, and that's when we have a problem. It's got nothing to do with how pretty we are or how flashy we are — with the exception of Ric (Flair), and that's just Ric. Chris Benoit, Steve McMichael and myself are down-in-the-trenches type of guys.

"However, with The NWO in town, we're not making the kind of money that we should ... and that doesn't please us, that's where the hitch falls with us."

The Horsemen, among others, have been abused physically by The NWO for months. And, more important in Anderson's eyes, he has been hurt financially. Anderson said he might lose up to $300,000 this year alone in matches he did not win, be it from injury or simply focusing on The NWO, instead of a WCW foe. Needless to say, that doesn't please the bearded brawler who is quick to admit, "To be successful, you've gotta make money; it's that simple."

Anderson is an original Horseman. So too is Flair, along with Tully Blanchard and Ole Anderson. The Four Horsemen, the brainchild of J.J. Dillon, was (and still is) the elite evil force in the sport of wrestling, a quartet bent on destruction and, most important, holding the gold. Others have been Horsemen over the years, like Luger, Barry Windham, Paul Roma and Brian Pillman, but "The Enforcer" as he is commonly called has, and always will be, the stalwart.

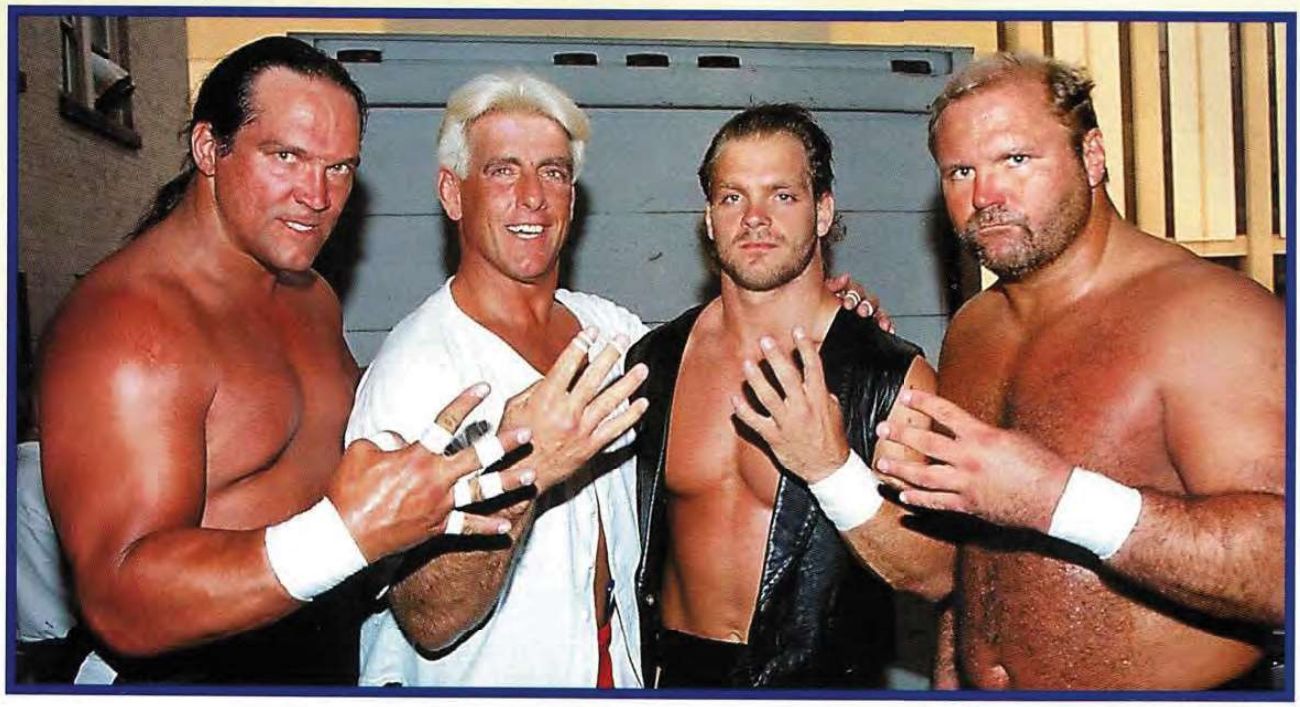
"I feel like I am now as good of a wrestler as I ever was," said Anderson, a professional wrestler since 1982. "You can't embarrass me, you can't humiliate me, certainly not by spray-painting me. I'm not a guy who is very cosmetic, as you can tell; I've had both ears shut from punches or kicks about a dozen times, I've had 100 stitches in my face ... hey, I'm not what you'd call a handsome guy. But, where you can humiliate me is by leaving me down where I can't come back, and that's exactly what The NWO did. And that I'm not going to stand for."

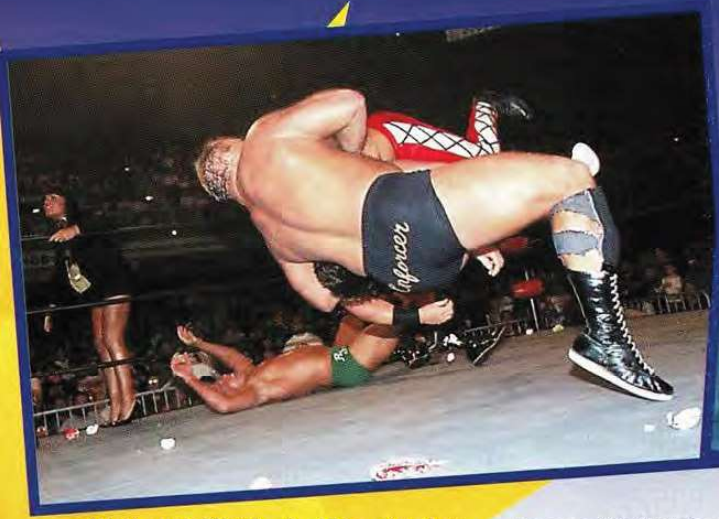
You see, there's something, er, someone inside Anderson that always says, 'Get up until you can't get up anymore!' He doesn't give up. He won't give up. As has been said for years about Flair, you'll have to kill Anderson before he stops his attack.

"I'm not happy unless I'm a champion, that's the bottom line," Anderson said.

A tag team specialist, Anderson also has plenty of singles titles to his credit.

"There's no doubt that the scales have been tipped toward The NWO, mainly because of all of the in-fighting within WCW," said Anderson. "The Four Horsemen made one major





mistake, and I'll take the blame for that: War Games. But, I thought Luger, being a Horseman at one point in his career, could hold his end up. He didn't, and it cost us War Games, even though we had War Games won in my estimation."

That emotional setback was coupled by a severe physical blow: Flair's shoulder, which was to be operated on in October and left the legendary "Nature Boy" on the sidelines until 1997.

"How do you replace a Ric Flair? You don't. You can't. There's only one. There only will be one," Anderson said. "Ric Flair was my mentor, he is my cousin, my family, my inspiration. A lot of times people have said that I have sacrificed my career for his, and that's true. But right now his is in jeopardy, and that's disturbing. It's going to be a tremendous loss to professional wrestling, much less The Four Horsemen, if Flair can't come back."

Still, Anderson is optimistic. He is confident Chris Benoit and Steve McMichael can live up to The Horsemen stature.

"The Horsemen are as strong, or stronger, than ever," Anderson said. "I think we are as good physically right now as The Horsemen have ever been. I think the only thing that is lacking right now is ... at other times, we've had a little more experience. McMichael, who is a fabulous athlete and will be a great wrestler in time, is now a bit short on experience. And, to a lesser degree, the same is true with Chris Benoit.

"But, the desire, attitude and raw prowess of the current Four Horsemen is as strong as ever."

Said former wrestler Terry Taylor, "I think this breed of Horsemen is more diversified than they ever have had. Arn is Arn, what else do I have to say? He's as tough as anyone, as good as anyone and dangerous as anyone. Ric Flair is a legend in our sport. He's wrestled the biggest, baddest and the best. And I'm sure he'll rebound from this injury. Chris Benoit is a young wolverine who ain't the biggest guy on the planet, but try to convince him that he's not 6-foot-5, 270-pounds. Steve McMichael was a tremendous football player who has incredible drive."

And who can forget J.J. Dillon? Ah, yes, J.J. Dillon, the mastermind behind The Four Horsemen. After leaving WCW over five years ago, he returned to the company in an administrative capacity in early-October. But is it JUST an administrative role? Or will he revive his managerial leadership skills?

"J.J. Dillon is one of the brightest men I have ever met. As far as a strategist, he is the best of all time," Anderson said. "J.J. Dillon put the original Horsemen together and, during the last half of the 1980s, he commandeered it. Maybe it is a coincidence that J.J. Dillon now works for WCW. Maybe it isn't. Maybe we needed an edge, and that edge is J.J. Dillon. Then again, maybe he isn't that edge."

Anderson admitted that he had a two hour lunch with Dillon days after returning to Atlanta. Was it a business meeting? Or simply a friendly lunch?

"Hey, he owed me lunch for about eight years, so I finally got the tight-wad to buy," Anderson snapped. "Don't read anything into that, or maybe you can; that's your decision."

So, Arn, can The NWO be stopped?

He laughed for a moment, then turned as serious as a spinebuster.

"For me to sit here and tell you that The NWO hasn't caused havoc through WCW ... well, that would make me a liar," Anderson said. "The NWO has had its way with everyone. They actually took a page out of The Horsemen playbook, and they've used it against us. They've picked their spots as well as we ever have. I never thought Hulk Hogan would have the ingenuity to put together The NWO because, face it, it takes a diabolical mind to put together something like what he has orchestrated. Yet he's done it. And my hat goes off to him for that. However, the fact that I have been the victim of some of his antics makes me take exception to him.

"The Four Horsemen are the original gang in professional wrestling. We wrote the book on cheap-shots, so, Hogan, there will be another day, a day when you wish you had never crossed The Four Horsemen."

Anderson added: "Everyone keeps talking about the fact that WCW needs a leader. Well, as crazy as this may sound, the people who have been revered, hated and despised the most over the years are The Four Horsemen, and if we are going to plug this hole that The NWO has created before this ship sinks, we need to take it upon ourselves to do it. WCW has a lot of raw talent. Sting. Luger. The Steiner Brothers. Harlem Heat. The Faces of Fear. So many others. If they will band together with us, we can put a stop to The NWO rather quickly. But that's what it's going to take, a community effort.

"Ya know, I'm even willing, if it will help save the company that is my livelihood, to sign a pact with the devil himself, 'Taskmaster' Kevin Sullivan."

FACE THE FANS

Rey Mysterio Jr. has taken WCW by storm. The fans love him, broadcasters admire him and his fellow wrestlers respect his athletic ability, especially for being so small (about 5-foot-5 and "well-under" 200 pounds) in comparison to the "stereotypical professional wrestler." The masked Mysterio is a tribute to dedication and hard-work, the values of perseverance and self-confidence. He entered Halloween Havoc as the WCW Cruiserweight Champion and heads into the final weeks of 1996 as a leading candidate for the Newcomer of the Year honor.

Mysterio sat down for a one-on-one interview with WCW Magazine in mid-October shortly after — no surprise — yet another amazing-move-filled-match. We posed him this selection of questions submitted by Walter Arthur from Nevada.

Do you consider your size to be an advantage in any way?

"Yeah. It helps me with all of my fast moves, my ability to jump on the ropes, to get away from a bigger opponent."

Do you fear stepping into the ring with any opponent, especially those who might out-weigh you by, oh, more than 100 pounds?

"I don't fear getting hurt, because I know what I'm doing in the ring. What I fear is, letting the crowd down."

Konan has long been your idol, but, in recent months he has joined The Dungeon of Doom and turned his back on you — and the fans. What are your feelings about the Konan we now know?

"Konan is a good wrestler, a great wrestler and I respect him for that. But, turning on the people, the fans and all of us (fellow Mexican native wrestlers) ... that was a very bad idea. Still, if he feels better on that side of the world, with The Dungeon of Doom, so be it, but some day we'll face each other one-on-one. And then we'll bring him down."

Who do you idolize?

"As a kid, I loved to watch Ricky 'The Dragon' Steamboat. He was a great wrestler, a high-flyer of the 1980s who I really respected and admired."

With all of the high-risk moves that you perform, we have to wonder ... do you have any gymnastics experience?

"Nope, none at all. If I have something in mind, like a new move or dive, I will go to a gymnastics class near my house in Tijuana to practice it. Then, if I do it well in the class, I will bring it to the ring."

How many languages do you speak and, if you are multilingual, does that help you in the ring?

"I only speak Spanish and English, and am just learning Japanese. Other languages wouldn't really help me for wrestling, but it would help in communicating with my fans."

If you weren't a wrestler, what would you be doing?

"Oh, boy, I don't know. I wasn't too into sports in school, other than running cross country and (on the) track team. I didn't have one sport that was my main focus. In fact, that's why, back in Tijuana, there was a wrestling class that ran from 7-10 p.m., and that was my main focus. I had to do all of my homework before I could go and train. My parents always insisted that, if I was going to wrestle or even train, I had to get good grades in school. So that's what I always did. I worked hard." (Mysterio went to Montgomery High School in Chula Vista, Calif.)

What sort of music do you enjoy?

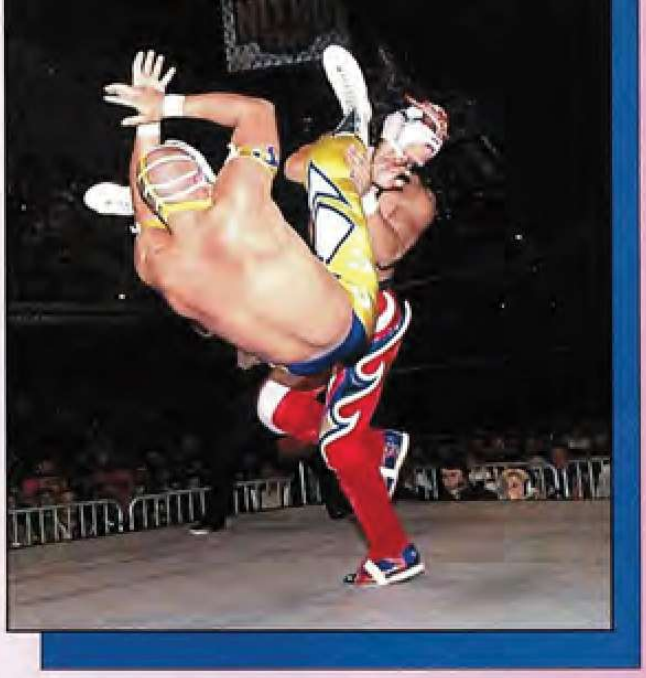
"I like most music, particularly rock and heavy metal, like Pantera and Metallica."

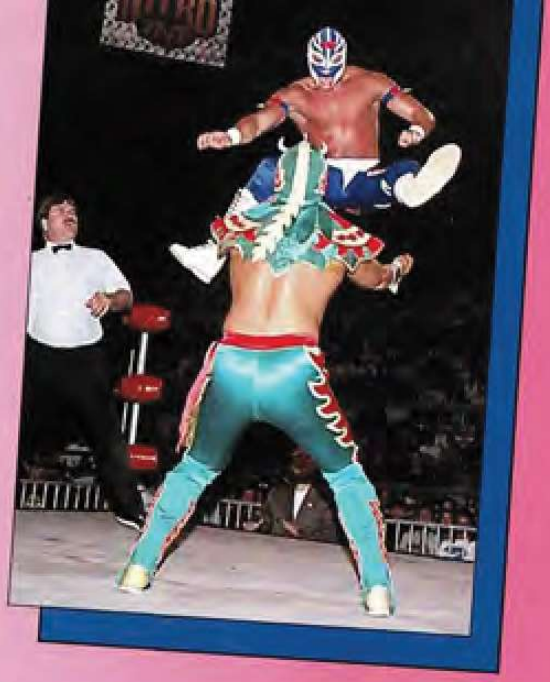
What other sports do you enjoy?

"Surfing. I go to the beach a lot."

Tell us about your rivalry with Juventud Guerrera?

"Well, it started back, oh, about three years ago in Mexico, when Rey Mysterio and Rey Mysterio Jr., went against the father-son combo of Fuerza and Juventud Guerrera. Eventually Rey Mysterio and Fuerza Guerrera





went away from the feud, but it continued for Juventud and myself. We've had a lot of welterweight matches down in Mexico City and also have wrestled each other in Japan and Philadelphia."

Where did you learn your moves?

"Basically it's just from watching a lot of wrestling, then putting things in my own style."

Most wrestlers say that you perform the best moves, but we're curious ... what, or who, impresses you?

"I'd say the most impressive move I've ever seen is the Frankensteiner by Scott Steiner. And, as you know, I've adopted the Frankensteiner and now have my own version. I really respect Scott for doing the Frankensteiner because he's a big guy and I know what it takes to do a Frankensteiner. I admire him and his move a lot. My Frankensteiner, known as the Huracanrana, has helped me win a lot of matches."

What interests do you have away from the ring?

"Well, believe it or not, in my time off, I like to invent a lot of moves; that's just how I am. I often even write down the moves so I don't forget them. Also, I really enjoy spending time with my family."

What is the craziest thing you have ever done?

"Well, let's see ... getting married (laughs). No, seriously, I would have to say getting my belly-button pierced has to be one of the craziest things. Also, shaving my head. It was something I had been thinking about for some time, then all of a sudden I got the courage to do it, so I did it." (Mysterio previously had brown, shoulder-length hair.)

What are your favorite foods?

"Most Mexican foods, like tacos and burritos. I really like going to Taco Bell; it's one of my favorites. I also like Korean bar-b-que and a good steak."

What does the WCW Cruiserweight belt mean to you?

"When I won it, that was a great satisfaction for me and it brought great pride to my family. I had won a few belts in the past in Mexico, but, winning the WCW Cruiserweight belt meant so much to me. Beating Dean Malenko for the belt was one of those 'once-in-a-lifetime' matches ... it meant a lot."

Finally, what would be a dream match for you?

"That's tough to say, but, I know I would enjoy teaming with Eddie (Guerrero) against Dean (Malenko) and Juventud. That would be a great match."

Well that's all there is to it! Send your questions to:

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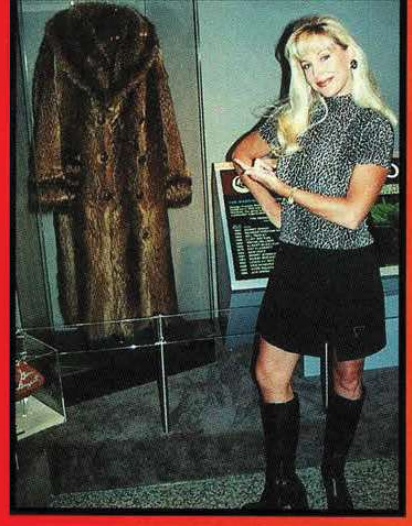
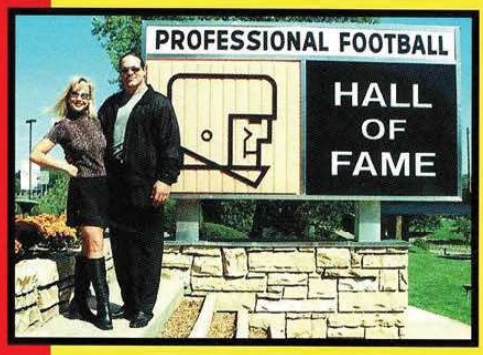
OUT & ABOUT

STEVE & DEBRA McMICHAEL at the Pro-Football Hall of Fame

In early-October, prior to a WCW event at the Canton (Ohio) Civic Center, WCW Magazine Editor Ross Forman, a diehard Chicago Bears fan, accompanied good 'ol No. 76, Steve "Mongo" McMichael, his wife Debra and, of course, Pepe for a visit to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Everyone had their favorites: Ross was fascinated by Chicago legend George "Papa Bear" Halas; Steve was enthralled with, who else, Da Coach, "Iron" Mike Ditka; Debra was attracted to a raccoon coat once owned by George Preston Marshall, the former owner of the Washington Redskins; while Pepe, well, he was thrilled to find a bush off the side of the building.





It gave WCW Magazine a chance to talk to McMichael about the other big love in his life ... football.

Steve "Mongo" McMichael has been a popular, success story in every profession he's chosen. His football career — college and pro — is legendary. University of Texas and the Chicago Bears for the most part. His broadcasting insights are famous, er, infamous throughout the Midwest, not to mention Emmy Award-winning in 1994.

Now he's tackling pro wrestling, World Championship Wrestling (WCW) style. McMichael is a rookie with the Atlanta-based organization run by TV mogul Ted Turner, and even is a member of the prestigious quartet known as The Four Horsemen, a unit that also features "Nature Boy" Ric Flair, "The Enforcer" Arn Anderson and "Canadian Crippler" Chris Benoit.

And for a guy like McMichael who, in his free time, enjoys rattlesnake hunting, yep, he is right in his element.

"The thing that really stands out to me about football is, how regimented it was," McMichael said. "In football, you have a curfew during training camp, they knock on your door to get you up in the morning, they tell you when to eat breakfast, lunch and dinner, they tell you when your meetings are, when you have to meet the bus, etc., etc. etc. In wrestling, it's up to you to get on the airplane, it's up to you to get a rent-a-car, it's up to you to find the arena. So, to me, wrestling is more of a grown up sport if you look at it that way, whereas in football there are a bunch of children being led around by their hands.

"On the other hand, as I look back at my football career, what sweet brutality it was. I love contact sport. The only reason I watch hockey is because they fight. The reason I like wrestling is, it's a macho sport. It's brutal ballet. It's what everyone rubbernecks about when there's a wreck on the freeway."

The 15-year pro who spent time with Chicago, Green Bay and New England was one of the game's best defensive interior lineman. He was a four-time All-Pro (NFC) and a two-time Pro Bowler who still wears his Super Bowl ring from about 10 years ago.

"I always considered myself a team player. I sacrificed a lot to go out there and do my job within the framework within the defenses that were called," McMichael said. "I didn't go out there and try to freelance. I went out there and did the plays that came to me. I think it's a big mistake when players go out there and run their own plays. When one player breaks down on defense, the whole unit goes to pot.

"In Chicago, we had a bunch of guys who went out there and did their job, and when you've got 11 guys doing that, everyone is going to look good."

McMichael added: "I'm the kind of person who thinks that you learn by your mistakes so, that said, my mistakes are forefront in my mind. In other words, the plays that I could have made, the plays that I could have done better are at the forefront of my mind more so than the plays I made and even all of the victories that we had. Again, that said, football kind of was a negative experience, but that's just the way I think. I think of the negatives more than the positives ... and that made me better. It motivated me, it drove me to be better."

McMichael played in 225 NFL games, mostly for the Bears. He ranks among the Top 15 all-time in sacks with 95. McMichael holds the Chicago record for games played (191) and safeties (3). Plus, he ranks second in total sacks (92.5).

For his career, he had 844 tackles, 95 sacks, 15 fumble recoveries, 12 forced fumbles, 30 passes defended, three safeties and two interceptions.

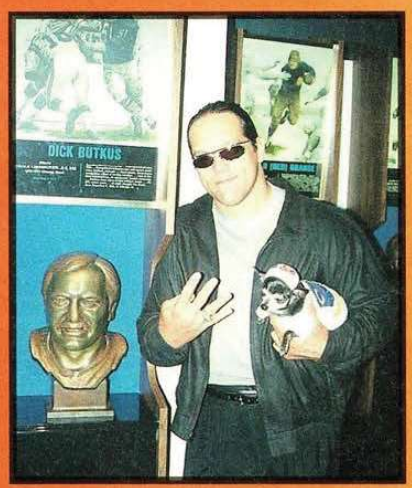
And oh-so-many memories from the legendary Chicago-Green Bay rivalry, which he was a part of from both sides.

"The Chicago-Green Bay games were great, regardless of which side I played for. Playing in those games was like playing in history, something I took a lot of pride in," he said.

McMichael was a member of the Bears' Super Bowl-winning team in 1985, the squad that also featured Walter Payton, Jim McMahon and William "The Refrigerator" Perry and so many other characters. That was, remember, the team that gave us the Super Bowl Shuffle.

"I've played on a lot of teams and been around a lot of athletes, but that team which won the championship ... those guys were the most motivated, the most unselfish team I had ever been a part of. Ever. Each member of that team forgot about their egos for that time and everyone bonded together for one common goal, and we got the job done. That stands out the most from my career," McMichael said. "Truthfully, the Super Bowl kind of was anti-climatic after the NFC Championship Game at Soldier Field; that was a more thrilling game. We won it 20-0, although it was close until the fourth quarter. That was a game played in snow and just your typical Chicago winter weather."

Chicago stopped New England 46-10 in the Super Bowl.



"We had already handily beaten New England during the regular season, so we kind of knew we had a good chance of winning that Super Bowl ... and we just went in and dominated from the start," McMichael said. "Winning the Super Bowl was a great sense of accomplishment, but not like the NFC Championship Game."

So why wasn't Chicago a football dynasty in the late-1980s?

"I blame it on (quarterback) Jim McMahon, and that's not a knock on him, rather, it's a knock on how brittle he was," McMichael said. "The guy was a competitor, a tough little nut who tried his heart out but kept getting hurt — and every year we'd have to use a second-string quarterback in the playoffs, and then we'd lose. We had Doug Flutie, Steve Fuller and Mike Tomzcak. It's not meant as a knock against those guys, but, Jim McMahon was a special quarterback ... a winner.

"Those Chicago teams had so many characters and, ya know, that's another reason why wrestling endears itself to the public: the personalities involved in the profession. Fans don't like to see cookie-cutter robots out there; they want to see the guy behind the face-mask; they want to think they know him. That's what we were then in Chicago, and what things are now in WCW."

After all, no Chicagoan will ever forget the singing legend that spurred out of the Super Bowl Shuffle, a rhythmic tune that hyped this Super Bowl team

But McMichael was not part of it — by his choice!

You see, the video was set to be filmed on a Tuesday morning, the day after Chicago was playing in Miami. And that game, Chicagoans also will never forget, was the team's lone loss of the season.

"We arrived back home at, oh, about 4 a.m., after getting crushed on Monday Night Football," McMichael said. "Was I going to dance to the tune of, 'We're going to the Super Bowl' hours after getting killed? No way!!"

What if the Bears had beaten Miami, then would you have participated?

"I don't think so," McMichael said. "In knowing that you never put the cart before the horse, you don't talk about something you're gonna do before you do it because it'll come back to haunt you."

McMichael was a standout at the University of Texas in Austin, where he earned two All-American honors and was a finalist for the Outland Trophy and the Lombardi Award. He was inducted into the Texas Hall of Fame in 1992.

"I fell in love with the city; it's my utopia. That's what I remember the most about college and we definitely had some damn-good teams there," McMichael said. "No one who reads this article, other than people in Texas, will know what I'm talking about ... there is just a pageantry in Texas when it comes to football. Yep, football is taken in a different light down there. Unlike anywhere else in America."

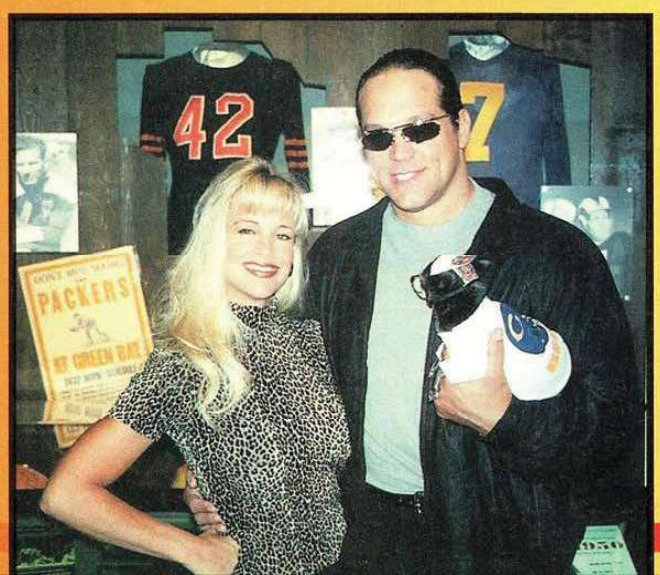
McMichael's football heroics landed him on more than 50 trading cards. His rookie edition is a 1985 Topps (No. 32).

"I think I have them all," McMichael said, "and I think all players should have all of their cards." In fact, he added, "everyone who has ever achieved anything in athletics should have a trophy room to display their trophies, to remind yourself that setting goals and achieving them is very important."

He does not have a favorite trading card, although he appears on relics from every major card maker from the past 10 years.

"I often get asked to sign autographs, especially my cards, and I don't mind at all," he said. "If the fans are cordial and ask politely — and when I say that, I'm talking about fans of all ages — I'm glad to sign an autograph. Anyone who demands an autograph, or is ignorant or not nice, I'm not going to sign anything for them!"

So, Steve, do you miss football?



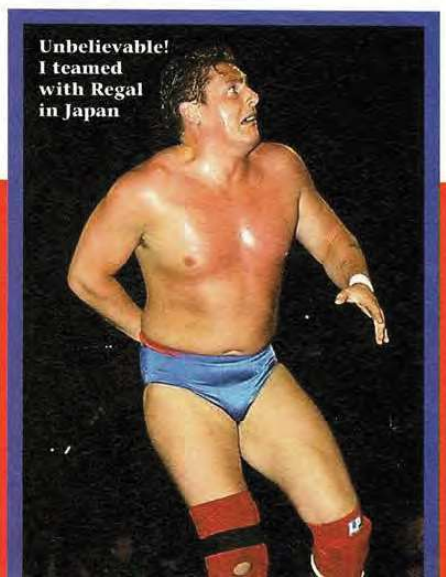
"When I see guys out there going half-speed, it irritates me. I know there are a lot of players who I could play better than right now, and I've been retired for a little bit. So, yes, that's when I miss the game. Would I like to return to the NFL? Sure, anything for another day in the sun."

Male Shots

The American Males are thrilled with all of the positive feedback we have received after last month's inaugural column here in WCW Magazine. Glad you read it. Glad you liked it. Hope the same can be said for this edition.

The past few months have been, well, a downer for Marcus Bagwell and Scotty Riggs. Oh, sure, we've still got the hottest bods this side of the Mason Dixon, but, we've also got injured bods. Scotty, as you all know, has been sidelined with a shoulder injury that slowed our title chase. Marcus, in the meantime, toured Japan as a representative of WCW in September.

Japan was a really different experience from anything I had done in the past. You not only are wrestling for WCW when you go over there, but, you're wrestling against another wrestling promotion and you're doing it on their home field. It was a lot of pressure and, ya know, it kinda reminded me of playing high school football in Marietta, Ga. It was very tough wrestling their competitors on their soil with their fans in attendance. And as you know, the Japanese are very competitive. My first match (naturally, my first) was against their World Heavyweight Champion: Shinya Hashimoto. I was like, 'Oh great ... I'm in there with the champion.' I felt like I gave Hashimoto a very good match, although I was very nervous. First, I am mainly a tag team wrestler and there is a huge difference between singles and tag team wrestling. So, it was a whole new ball game and I had to adapt. Second, I was not mentally or physically prepared for the match against Hashimoto. Still, I think it turned out pretty well and, most important, I learned a lot. And, if I go back anytime in the future, I know I will be a lot better prepared than I was this time. I wrestled five times in the Land of the Rising Sun, and won each of the others. Some of my matches were tag contests and, believe it or not, I actually teamed with Lex Luger, Lord Steven Regal, Rick Steiner. Yep, Marcus Bagwell and Lord Steven Regal ... Imagine that. Ya know, every time you climb into the ring, you learn something new and if you can climb into the ring with guys who you normally would not climb in there with, you really learn more. In singles matches, you learn something in every match. When you're teaming with the same partner each and every night, you learn something. And when you go in there with someone new, you definitely learn something. I don't know what it is about this sport, but that's how it is. It's a tough sport to get good at and/or be successful, but that's how it is. I learned a tremendous amount from Regal and while our attitudes are a stark contrast, it was a good experience. The experience did Marcus Bagwell a lot of good and, thus, it did The American Males a lot of good.



Unbelievable! I teamed with Regal in Japan

The NWO ... The NWO ... The NWO. That's all people want to talk about. Fans, broadcasters and wrestlers ... everyone talks about The NWO. Everyone except The American Males. We totally disagree with everything going on with The NWO. First, Hulk Hogan turning against the fans is where it all started and was a complete shocker, still is. We each watched Hulk Hogan as a kid. We grew up training, saying our prayers and eating our vitamins ... that's why we now completely disagree with what he's done with his life, to say the least. Then there's Kevin Nash who was here in WCW a few years back and, bottom line, had no success. Oh, yeah, he went elsewhere, had some success and now thinks he can run over everyone in WCW ... well, he's got something else coming. Oz, or whatever your name is, your bark is a lot worse than your bite! Next is Scott Hall, a guy who WCW didn't even want at first and although he was here for a few years, we got rid of him because, bottom line, he wasn't wanted here and couldn't cut it. Now ... he still isn't wanted and hasn't gotten any better as a wrestler.

The long and the short of The NWO is, I think they stink!

WCW always will be the best wrestling organization in North America.

Marcus made his movie debut in October, playing the lead role (of The Warrior) in 'The Day of the Warrior'. Marcus' character, a professional wrestler, (like that was tough to do) actually used wrestling as a front to smuggle fine art, jewelry and artifacts into the U.S. He then sold them on the black market. The flick was picked up by Showtime. Did you see it? What are you waiting for? Marcus also will be filming 'Return to Savage Beach' starting next February.

The acting was real neat. I would like to do more. Just imagine someone giving you a sentence to say, then you've got to say that sentence like it's your true feelings, even though it might not be something you would ever say in your life. That's acting. To me, it's an art to be a good actor or actress, and that's why I have a lot of respect for actors and actresses. I spent eight long days, and I do mean long days — 14-hour days — filming 'The Day of the Warrior'. It was filmed in California, Nevada and Louisiana, and I had a blast doing it. As long as we're on the subject of movies, perhaps you're wondering who are our favorites? Well, we'll take our hats off to the following: Mel Gibson, Michael Douglas, Demi Moore, Meg Ryan, Chevy Chase, Jim Carrey and Pamela Anderson. And also, of course, Arnold and Sylvester.

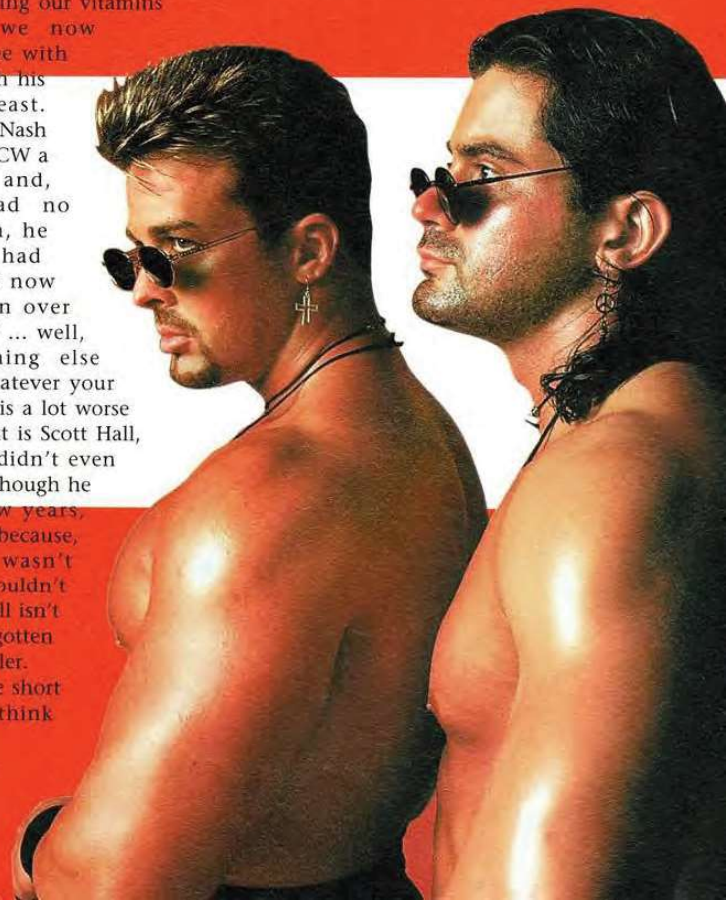
Well, folks, that's it for this month. In closing, here are our picks for the NBA season:

MB: Los Angeles is going to be real tough to beat, and so will Houston.

SR: Chicago.

THE MALE SHOT (from MB):

My implant surgery didn't go quite as well as Madusa's ... I guess I should go see her doctor next time.



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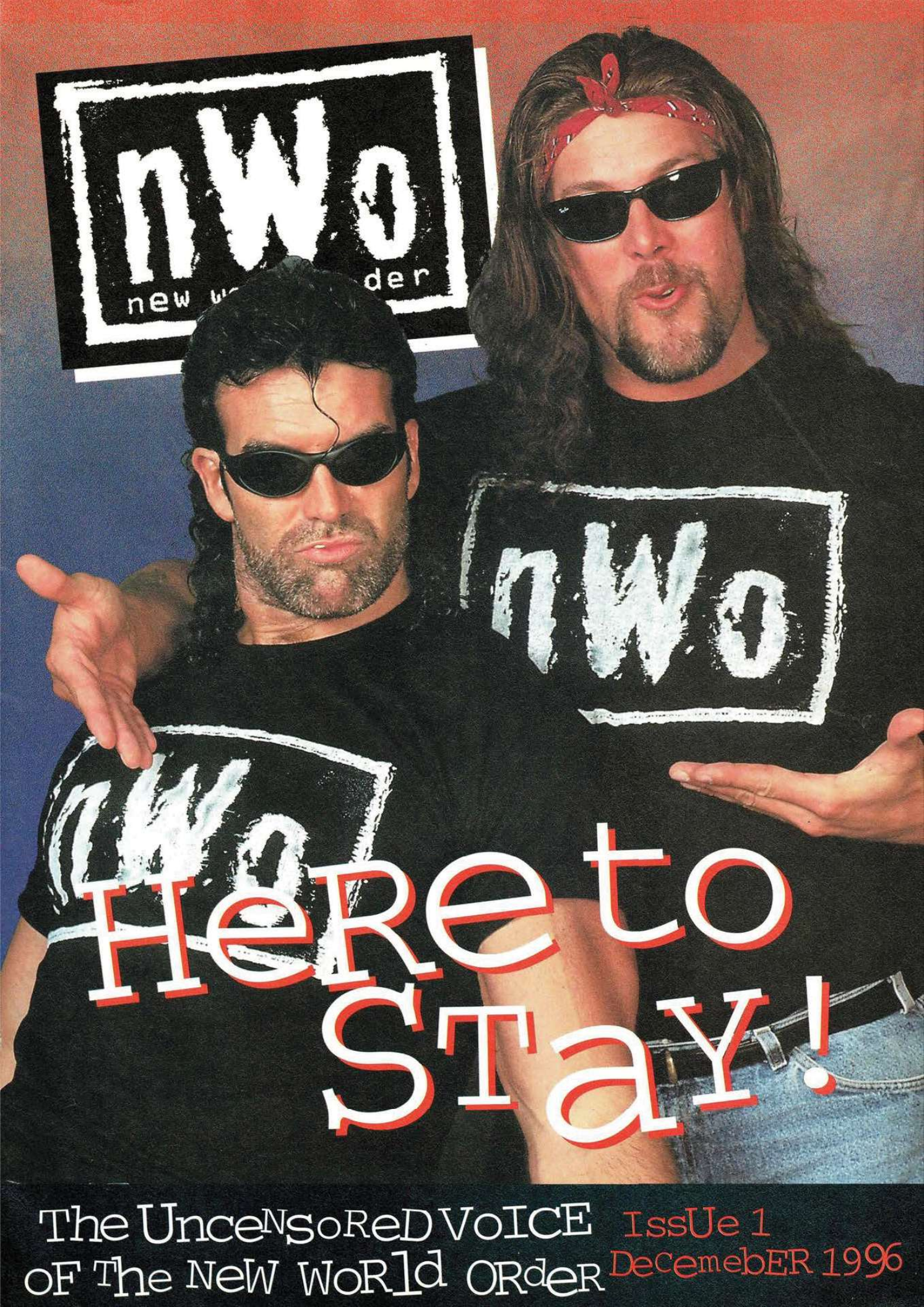
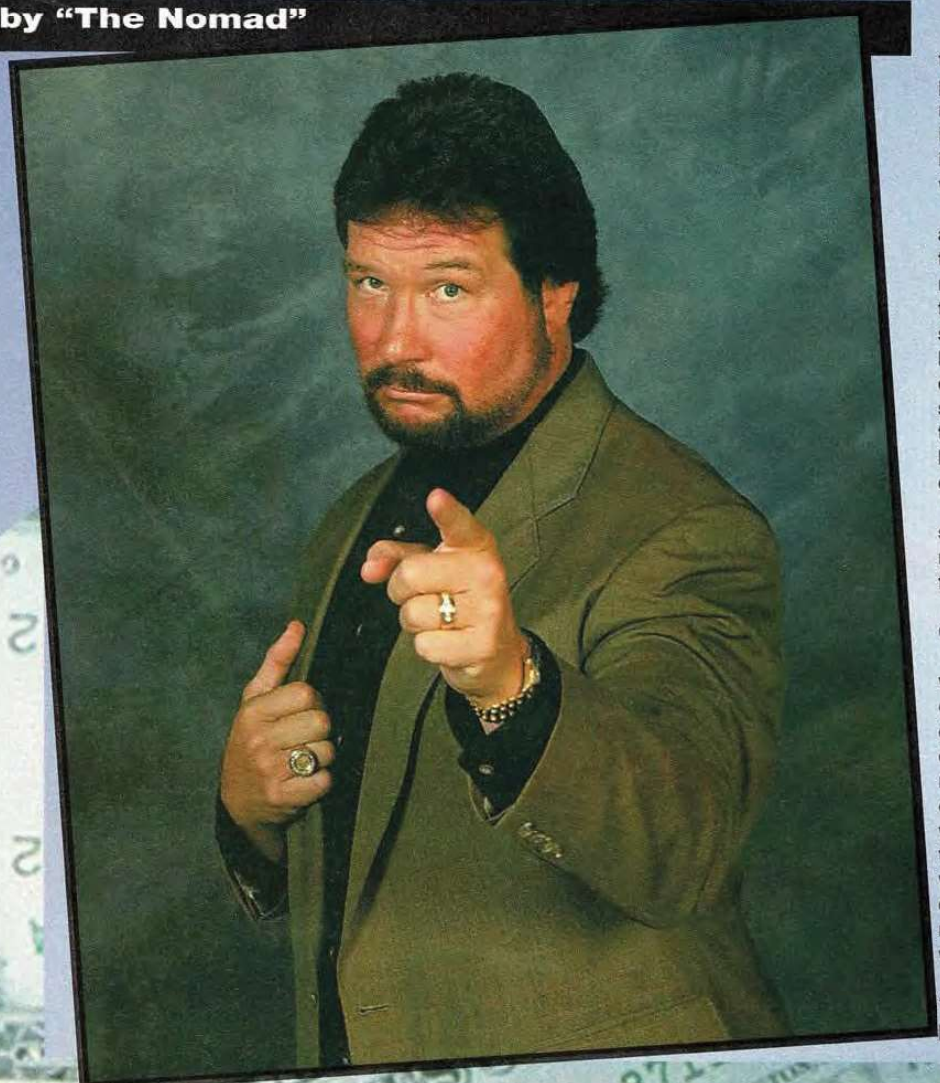


The Uncensored Voice of The New World Order

Issue 1
December 1996

MONEY TALKS

by "The Nomad"



There are millions of reasons to hate Ted DiBiase. Maybe billions. He has money, wealth and fame, and loves to flaunt it all. He has homes around the world and cars that would make the Batmobile look like a tricycle. He has yachts that rival anything owned by Bill Gates and a Swiss bank account that exceeds Michael Jordan's. He has gold, diamonds, emeralds and rubies that would make any jeweler jealous.

Ted DiBiase is the man with the money, the man with the plan, the man guiding the greatest group of athletes in pro wrestling: The New World Order. He is Chief Operating Officer/Chief Financial Officer by title and, most important, a winner. Always has been, always will be. As a wrestler. As a broadcaster. As a manager. As a businessman. He strives for success, then not only reaches it on a daily basis, but, he exceeds it.

"It's true in the wrestling world, in the business world and the world at large, you do whatever is necessary to stay on top. And that is what Ted DiBiase has always done," he says, his Armani suit showing his impeccable fashion sense. "I've said it before, and I'll say it again, if you went to, say, Waikiki Beach (in Honolulu) and looked at the beach from one end to the other, and then tried to count every grain of sand on that beach, well, it would be easier to do that than (to) sit in my vault and count my money.

"Yeah, I'll say it, I'm loaded."

DiBiase, some say, has more money than God. And with the money, he possesses a lot of power. An awful lot. As much, or more, than any other individual in the sport. Plus, for years he was one of, if not the, premiere athlete in professional wrestling.

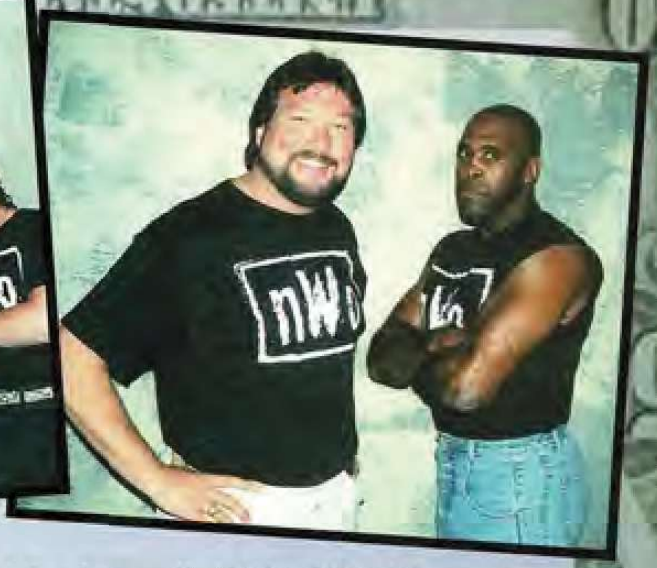
"I command the respect of my peers, and I get it. Everyone will tell you, whether they like me or dislike me, that you can never underestimate Ted DiBiase. Be it in the ring or in the financial world," DiBiase said. "I love a challenge. I love to do what I'm told I can't do, or what I'm told can't be done. Don't get me wrong ... I'm not saying I won't listen to other people, to their ideas. But, if I think something can be done, regardless what others say, I will do it. One way or another.

"If I get a goal in my mind ... if I see something that I see as achievable, no matter what anyone tells me, I'm gonna go for it."

Like, say, taking over World Championship Wrestling?

"Basically, I'm here in The NWO to do what I've been told can't be done: take over WCW. I've been told in the past that it cannot be done, and yet I did it. And I've done it time after time. I really have nothing against WCW; it is a great organization, with a storied tradition. But, when you want something, when you think you can make it better, you do whatever you can to get it done. And what do you do? You recruit the best. And right now, the very best athletes in the world of wrestling, are in The NWO.

"Think about it, The NWO is led by 'Hollywood' Hulk Hogan, a legend who probably is the biggest name in pro



wrestling history. Then we've got The Outsiders, Scott Hall and Kevin Nash. Hey, you can call them Outsiders, but they definitely are the insiders; they are what's happening in pro wrestling. They are the new-age of pro wrestling. There are none better. We've also got The Giant, Vincent, syxx and ... well, let's just stick with them for right now. Sure, syxx is a little guy, not very big in stature, but, he's the best Cruiserweight guy there is."

DiBiase added: "If you look back at history ... Atilla The Hun, Julius Caesar, Alexander The Great ... these great conquerors, what did they do? They went out and surrounded themselves with the smartest, most gifted generals out there, and then they fed off the knowledge of a combined effort and then built the most powerful armies that the world has ever known.

"Take it up to the present. What was the last great war? World War II. General Eisenhower and MacArthur, they took the finest minds and, with a combined effort, defeated a Germany that no one thought could be stopped. Everyone thought Germany was an unbeatable force, but, with their combined force, they conquered Germany.

"It's just like The NWO ... we're combining our efforts and conquering. Conquering WCW. And, ya know, we're not gonna stop with just WCW. Heck no ... we're having too much fun to stop now."

DiBiase followed his father into the sport of wrestling. The late "Iron" Mike DiBiase was a great amateur wrestler (winner of an AAU National Heavyweight Championship) who later went into the pro ranks. DiBiase also has a football background, having played offensive and defensive tackle at West Texas State, a school due south of Amarillo that, at the time, competed in the Missouri Valley Conference.

"Throughout my life, I have seen athlete after athlete become successful, make a tremendous (amount of) money, then end up with nothing because, unfortunately, a lot of athletes think it's never going to end," DiBiase said. "Well, nothing lasts forever and the only security is what you put away. So, when the breaks came, when the success as a wrestler came, I was smart enough to take my money and invest it well and, thus, have become independently wealthy."

DiBiase started wrestling professionally during the summer of 1975, in a Louisiana-based promotion known as Mid-South Wrestling. Other stars at the time included the late Dick Murdoch, Killer Carl Cox, The Spoiler, Danny Hodge, The Hollywood Blondes, Paul Orndorff, Junk Yard Dog, Hacksaw Jim Duggan and Terry Taylor.

"Some of my fondest memories of wrestling came in my early years and, believe it or not, came in losses. In fact, I took a beating in some of those matches. But, in the process, I gained tremendous knowledge of the sport. This came from guys like Harley Race, Terry and Dory Funk, Jr., Jack and Jerry Brisco," DiBiase said. "Yep, there have been numerous highlights for Ted DiBiase over the years. The one that is particularly satisfying to me was a situation that, well, as I had said earlier, I was told that there was no possible way that it could be done: buy the Heavyweight Championship belt. But, sure enough, at a sold out Market Square Arena in downtown Indianapolis, Ind., before a national TV audience, I was there when Andre The Giant defeated Hulk Hogan and, thanks to a pre-match business deal I had made with Andre, a very lucrative one for him mind you, Andre won the belt then wrapped it around my waist. And, as I had predicted, I bought the title."

DiBiase also earned several titles over the years, including versions of the World Tag Team Championship, with Stan Hansen in Japan and Michael Wallstreet in America.

Ah, yes, Mr. Wallstreet, another shrewd businessman. Is he NWO-bound?

"There has been a lot of speculation, a lot of rumors flying around concerning the past relationship between Michael Wallstreet and myself," DiBiase said. "Well, one of the reasons I'm the successful businessman that I am is, I know that you never show your card. It's called a poker-face. The shock factor, that element of surprise is the key. So, you just never know whether I will associate again with Mr. Wallstreet. Michael Wallstreet is a good businessman; he thinks like I do. Is he the next guy? Could be. Maybe not. Maybe he's not interested.

"Come to think of it, maybe the next NWO member is someone else within the framework of WCW who no one would ever suspect. Let's face it, everyone wants to be No. 1 and everyone wants to be on top. And when you know you've got a shot at being a part of something great, the temptation is sometimes too great, too strong, and that's when you forget about loyalty, what you think is right and upstanding. That's why, as I said, it could be anyone."

DiBiase has been retired from active wrestling for several years, the result of a severe neck injury. And, "in all probability," probably never again will lace up his boots for action.

Unless the price is right, that is.

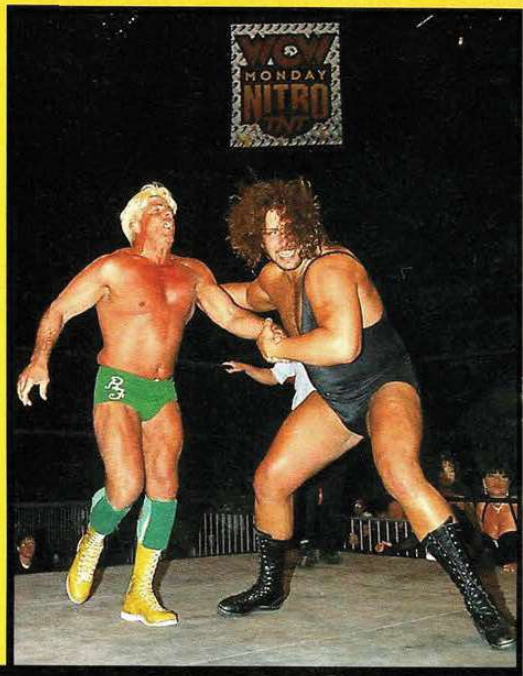
"I learned a long time ago to never say never," he said. "Again, money talks a lot louder than a lot of things and, given the right circumstances and the right financial arrangement, I would return to action. If I were to choose to go back into the ring, I would be taking a very calculated risk to my own health, but, if the stakes are high enough ... who knows. I guess we'll have to cross that bridge when we come to it."

In the meantime, DiBiase is content counting his loot and watching WCW crumble at his feet, the same way he has four valets on-call for his twice-a-week pedicures.

"Who would have ever dreamed that I could pull together the talent that I have, and let's face it, the talent in The NWO is the best in the business," he said. "One of the reasons that The NWO is so successful is, you have a number of individuals who, independently, are very smart, very cunning and very successful; and they have one thing in common: they don't take no for an answer and don't settle for being second-best. Sure, there are a lot of egos in The NWO, no one will deny that. But, when we get together, ego is put aside so we can make decisions that will benefit each and every one of us. That's when you become successful ... when you put aside egos for the benefit of the group.

And that's exactly what The NWO has done."

The Giant is the future of pro wrestling, no questions about it. That, in a nutshell, is why Ted DiBiase convinced Hulk Hogan to put aside any personal differences he may have had toward the man-mountain after Hog Wild, so, shortly thereafter, The NWO could add him to their roster of untouchables. Sure, The NWO offers Scott Hall and Kevin Nash, each of whom hover near the 7-foot mark with a mass of muscle packed inside their Outsider gear, but The Giant is the fearless behemoth who already has walked to — and through, if you catch our drift — Space Mountain.



STEP A GIANT

The Giant is, unquestionably, the glue that locks together wrestling's most feared force: The New World Order. He is a 7-foot-4, 470-pound terror with a passion for inflicting pain.

"Everyone in WCW always considered me an outcast because I came into the sport condemning Hulk. I tried to smarten them up, tell them that Hulk Hogan wasn't what WCW really needed," The Giant said. "Basically, I was just trying to come into the sport as a rookie and do something any other wrestler would want to do: win the WCW World Heavyweight Championship. And I did that.

"After I lost the belt in Sturgis (S.D.), it was as if I again was shunned by WCW.

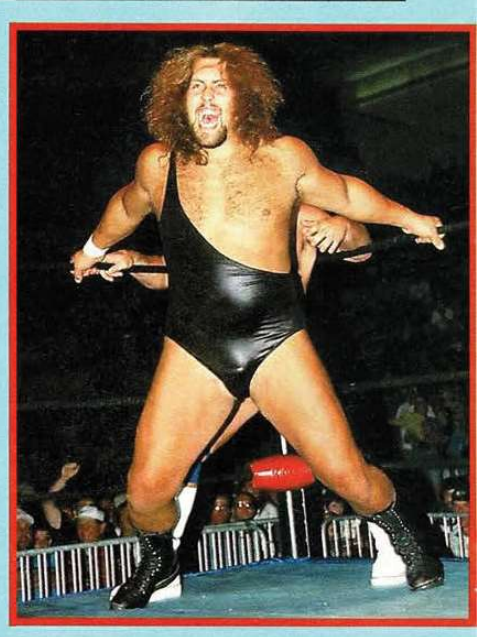
"Before the match I was elevated to hero status because I was the only one willing to step forward and challenge Hogan, then when I got screwed out of a win at Sturgis, no one was there to help me. No 'Macho Man' Randy Savage. No Sting. No Lex Luger. No one from WCW. No one at all. I was frustrated, to say the least."

Until, that is, DiBiase called and welcomed The Giant to The NWO with open arms. In fact, at the private NWO members-only meeting to introduce The Giant, guess who the first person was to shake his hand? You got it, Hulk Hogan. You can't forget any hard-feelings about these troops because, yes, as it seems, money certainly can buy peace and harmony.

"The thing about Hulk Hogan that I like the most is, he had respect for me. He knew that I was the only person at WCW who could stop The NWO, so that's why he made me an offer that I couldn't refuse and was so happy I joined the group," The Giant said. "People often want to know why I joined The NWO and, well, that's simple: I had to do what was right for me because, in essence, WCW turned its back on me from day one as if I was the evil step-son, then, when I was the only one left, they came running to me and, in the end, they never cared about me.

"What do I think of WCW? I don't need it!!"

The Giant refused comment on specifics of his contractual deal with The NWO, but did say that his signing bonus — in cash from DiBiase handed over within five minutes of signing — was twice his WCW yearly earnings. In addition to a financial portfolio that now puts The Giant in the same category as, say, Michael Jordan and Wayne Gretzky, he also receives up to 10 movie scripts daily.



"Everyone in The NWO has an understanding that, hey, this is just business. Nothing more, nothing less. We do what we have to do to get the job done," said The Giant, who now talks about Swiss bank accounts and tax-deferred accounts as frequently as

he does choke-slams and power-bombs. And, of course, The Giant now does his talking from his beach-side mansion in Florida, where he has a near-endless supply of pricey cars and boats — and also his "new really good-looking girlfriend" by his side.

"The NWO ... we're not only interested in just taking over WCW; we're also contemplating taking over other sports. Maybe we'll take over the NFL or the NBA. My personal goals are very simple, to be a success. I'm still a pretty down-to-earth kinda guy, although, sure, in mid-October, I bought a 24-karat solid gold diamond nugget watch at Tiffany's in New York for $112,000 and felt like a normal person buying a gallon of milk at the grocery store. And, I now have 24-hour cooks on staff, something I never could afford when with WCW, and now it's not even given a second thought. In fact, I now have a French cook, an Italian cook and also a Japanese cook on staff at all hours, just in case I get the munchies." (By the way, The Giant has reportedly approached DiBiase about a self-instructed cooking segment on NWO Television, and he promises recipes that would make Julia Childs salivate. DiBiase would not comment on the plan.)

The Giant's jump to The NWO also has spotlighted his ring announcing skills, and also his fashion sense. David Penzer can only eat his heart out watching The Giant when introducing the combatants for a match.

"David Penzer is a goof, nothing more nothing less," The Giant said. "David Penzer gives away free t-shirts, and the fans still hate him. He has no ring presence, that simple ability to get the people up and ready for a match. To be a good ring announcer, you need a voice that booms with confidence, whereas David Penzer sounds like he's standing in front of class reading his first book report. He's horrible, at best, and mainly because WCW employed him. I, on the other hand, have a great personality, am a loveable guy, so, what the heck, I bought some new fancy threads, and am now the best ring announcer in the business. And I do a fantastic job.

"One more thing about David Penzer, if you look at him sideways when he's wearing his tuxedo, he looks like a duck. He's got a big nose and a flat hairdo that is thinning. I probably shouldn't be ragging on the guy as much as I am, but, he definitely ought to be flipping burgers in some forgotten town in the South, or maybe just picking up dog manure on the sidewalk."

The Giant vehemently denied any lasting ties with his former crony "Taskmaster" Kevin Sullivan, and even laughed at the idea.

"'The Taskmaster,' as everyone knows, probably is the sneakiest person on the face of the planet. And everyone knows that it's not beyond 'The Taskmaster' to infiltrate an organization if he thinks it can help him," The Giant said. "And, I wouldn't be surprised in the least if Kevin Sullivan did try to slip a spy in among The NWO, but, I guarantee you one thing, if there was a spy in The NWO, I know who it will turn out to be. Who, you might be wondering? I have no comment.

"The NWO is a close-knit fraternity. Everyone gets along and everyone, and I do mean everyone, is financially set. Think that's the case in WCW? I don't. Lex worries about whether his abs look the best ... Sting worries about what color his hair is ... Macho worries about everything and everyone. The NWO, on the other hand, we're just out to have fun. We kick butt and take names. There is no room for jealousy in The NWO; we're all equal."

The Giant added: "Let's face it, The NWO is the most powerful force in professional wrestling. We're an elite group of fighting machines and, at World War 3, we will be in the ring with 50-some-odd other bozos. In the end, the only ones remaining with be The NWO members and we will then play Rock, Paper, Scissors to find the winner.

UP

by "The Nomad"

nWo

new world Order

Security Update

by "The Wanderer"

Vincent smiles twice a month. And then it's only a smirk, if that.

As the Director of Security for The New World Order, Vincent could care less about making friends, kissing babies or sportsmanship. That's not his job and that's not what he's paid for. He's paid to maintain order and, if need be, smack people around. That's why he checks a check every other week from The NWO.

And that's when he smiles.

"Money. Money. Money. That's my motivation. That's what makes me tick," said Vincent, whose scowl could melt ice. "I love money; you can't live without it. I like being on the top of any gang, and The NWO is the top gang. That means more money. More money. More money. More money.

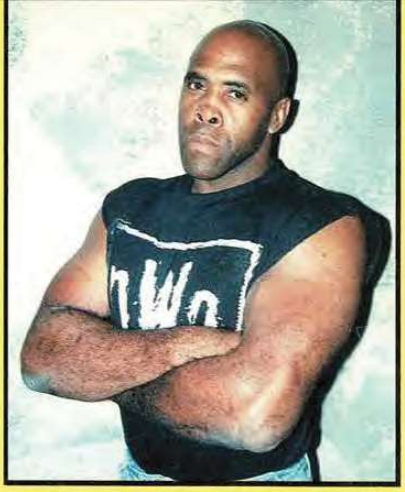
"Let's put it this way, Mr. (Ted) DiBiase has more money than anyone in the world. And money opens a lot of doors. At one time in my life, I was blinded by all of the money and tried to venture away from it. That was the biggest mistake of my life. You can't venture away from that mean-green; it's like a magnet; it draws you right back in."

The trusty bodyguard with the bulging biceps has been a mainstream wrestling mainstay for close to 10 years. Before that he was competing in regional promotions in Florida, Louisiana, Texas and Tennessee. And before turning pro, Vincent was an accomplished amateur wrestler at the University of Virginia who twice (as a junior and senior) reached the quarter-finals in the NCAA Tournament.

"You never know what I'm gonna do, be it wrestle or simply handle security, because I can do it all; I'm a man of all talents. I can run; I can jump; I can chew bubble gum and I can even walk. And I can do it all at the same time, believe it or not," Vincent said. "My immediate goal is to be financially secure and if Mr. DiBiase wants me to handle security for The NWO, hey, I'll handle security for The NWO. Mr. DiBiase pays very, very, very well ... that's why I like him and that's why I do what he says."

Vincent's security theory evolves around a four-letter word: pain. He likes to inflict pain, mainly because he can. WCW broadcaster Eric Bischoff was the first to learn of Vincent's torture techniques when he repeatedly slapped around Bischoff during a broadcast of Monday Nitro — an NWO Monday Nitro, that is.

"The way I look at things, I just make sure no one tries to sneak around and act stupid, if ya know what I mean. And I put people in their place; that's what I'm here for," Vincent said. "Hey, if it takes a left hook to the head or a right to the gut, so be it. People will start listening rather quickly when I'm in charge.



"Look, we're here to take over, and I'm here to move aside anyone who gets in our way. We told Eric Bischoff to sit down, be patient, listen to us and hear what we had to say. Well, he was running his mouth, saying nothing, so I put him in his place. And when we wanted to show him our NWO race car, he didn't want to go see it, so I was more than willing to show him first-hand, if you know what I mean."

Vincent added: "I just want to make sure everything is run right, run smoothly. I don't want people running around, running out of line. If you're not with us, you're against us. And if you're against us, you're mine. I enjoy my job. I love it. Why? Because I'm so good at what I do.

"Any questions?"

Syxx

by "The Wanderer"

In 1987, a 15-year-old wanna-be went into training with The Great Malenko at his facility in Tampa, Fla. The Great Malenko, a legend in pro wrestling, taught this youngster everything he knew. So did The Great Malenko's son, Dean, himself a professional wrestler. The kid, a high school dropout from nearby St. Petersburg, Fla., who had an extensive martial arts background, including a black belt in tae kwon do, was an excellent student for the Malenkos. A straight-A student, if you will.

Now that youngster's knowledge will come back to haunt Dean Malenko — and all of World Championship Wrestling.

That's because syxx was then the rising star. Now he's a proven-star, a wrestler who's worn championship gold on a mainstream level in the past and The New World Order member in search of the WCW Cruiserweight championship. If only to spray-paint it NWO.

"The Great Malenko was like my father and learning from him was, to me, the finest place to learn pure wrestling," syxx said. "The Great Malenko helped me incorporate my martial arts background with high-risk moves and a solid base-wrestling foundation. I left there in late-1989, but have never forgotten the experience.

"A lot of people think I strictly rely on martial arts, but I actually have a good, strong wrestling background, thanks to my time with The Great Malenko."

Plus, syxx has a killer instinct and a devious mind.

"I'm not the biggest guy in wrestling, nor am I one of the baddest, but I think I'm one of the toughest," he said. "If I get beat, hey, it's really no big deal. And that's not the case with WCW guys like, say, Lex Luger or Sting. Gee, winning is such a big thing to their egos, whereas I don't give a damn about my won-loss record."

And everyone is fair-game. For instance, during an September match in East Steubenville, Ohio, syxx took aim, then attacked Ric Flair from behind before a match even started between Four Horsemen members and The Outsiders, Scott Hall and Kevin Nash. And syxx smiled all the way home as the self-proclaimed "dirtiest player in the game" wallowed in agony.

"Ric Flair was the man, no doubt about it. But Space Mountain is not the hottest roller-coaster in the country anymore either," syxx said. "The hot ride these days is spelled NWO. And you're either a part, or not. And if you're not, you'll get run over.

"The NWO is the biggest thing to happen to wrestling in the past decade, maybe longer. A lot of people know that Scott Hall, Kevin Nash and myself have been a close-knit unit, along with a few other people for the past several years; that's what makes us a success. They were interested in me joining them, and I really wanted to join them just to get in on this action because it's fun."

Despite being The NWO's main Cruiserweight, syxx also can compete with any of WCW's so-called "big boys." After all, syxx has been doing that his whole career.

"WCW's Cruiserweight division probably is, pound-for-pound, the finest division anywhere in the world. The class of wrestlers in WCW's Cruiserweight division is unbelievable," syxx said. "The thing that will separate me from Dean Malenko and Rey Mysterio, Jr., and people like that is, I'm an international superstar — not just some regional hero. I can go to just about any country in the world and they will know who I am. Other than Mexico and now briefly in WCW, who are those WCW cruiserweight wrestlers?

"The thing with syxx is, I've always done whatever I've wanted to do; that's one of the reasons I left where I was before. I've always been the guy to do what I wanted to do; no one's told me what to do."

The 24-year-old superstar was, after leaving a promotion in the North East, offered a contract by WCW Executive Vice-President/General Manager Eric Bischoff. But he laughed at it.

"WCW couldn't match what The NWO was offering. In fact, WCW's offer wasn't even in the ballpark. WCW made my decision to join The NWO a no-brainer," syxx said, "and for Eric to think I would join WCW just because we spoke is nonsense. I have no history in WCW, no ties to WCW, no allegiance to WCW. And, guys like Scott Hall and Kevin Nash are my friends.

"Oh, yeah, Scott Hall and I have been on again, off again in the friendship category, but we're like blood. There's nothing that could happen that would drive a wedge between Scott Hall and myself. He's a stand-up guy; he does what he says he's gonna do. And I respect him for that. It doesn't matter if you like how he does things ... he just says what he's gonna do, then does it. Yeah we've had some episodes in the past, but that's history."

Syxx combines a plethora of martial arts attacks, from judo to karate to sambo. His jumping spin-wheel kicks are as effective as any in the business. And, unbeknownst to many, he throws a "mean" right-hook.

"The NWO is on a roll. All I can say is, watch out!!," syxx advised.

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HOTLINE BUZZ

MARK MADDEN

DISCLAIMER: This column features the comments and thoughts of Mark Madden. WCW Magazine nor WCW endorse or agree with his opinions and any complaints should be made to the man himself.

Rey Mysterio Jr. is 5 foot 5, 175 pounds and he has these dreams.

The dreams don't involve winning the WCW cruiserweight title. He's already done that. They don't involve dominating the lighter weight divisions in Mexico's AAA promotion. He's already done that. No, Rey Jr.,s dreams involve hunting bigger game.

"I'd like to wrestle some heavyweights, too," he said. "Maybe a guy would be a lot taller than me, and a lot heavier, but I think he'd have a pretty hard time catching me. And since I can jump on the ropes and fly, do a lot of things a heavyweight can't do, who's to say I wouldn't have a chance? Who's to say it wouldn't be a good match?

"I think it would do the cruiserweight division a lot of good, to have us wrestle outside the division. And I think we are good enough to wrestle anyone."

Before you envisage Rey Jr. being squashed like a bug by, say, Lex Luger, keep in mind that Rey Jr. can indeed do many things heavyweights can't do. And keep in mind that while he is small, he's a ball of muscle, as strong as they come for his size.

"I'm 175lbs now. I have weighed more," Rey Jr. said. "I'd like to gain some weight, to look bigger on TV, but size isn't really important. What you do is important. What you know how to do."

Rey Jr. can do it all. And he is only 22.

WCW has tried to launch facsimiles of its current cruiserweight division before. All met with quick and absolute failure after no fan interest whatsoever. But then Rey Jr. came to WCW from Mexico and made the cruiserweight division his own, captivating fans with his high-flying suicidal style.

"The fans in WCW like the Mexican style," said Rey Jr. "They get into it, because they haven't really seen it before. Now they've seen it, they like it, and they want to see more.

"It's the same as it was in Mexico. there used to be only one style. A lot of mat wrestling. A lot of lighter wrestlers came in and brought the high-flying style, and the fans liked it and started to get into it. In WCW, there had been one style for a long time. But the Mexicans and guys like Dean Malenko are changing that. And the fans like it."

Rey Jr. points out that the cruiserweight division has only scratched the surface of its potential: "A lot of guys that could compete as cruiserweights, guys like Eddie Guerrero and Chris Benoit, haven't yet. I'd love to wrestle those guys."

Rey Jr. has sent announcers like Tony Schiavone and Eric Bischoff home with headaches because they just don't know how to describe his moves. They don't even know what to call them. He'll dive from the top ropes, from the ringpost, from the apron, from anywhere but the arena balcony. His agility and speed make moves that seem impossible come alive in the ring.

How does Rey Jr. come up with his moves?

"I watch a lot of wrestling tapes, but I don't copy," he said. I copied in school. Not in wrestling. My favorite move is the Frankensteiner, so in my head I just figure out different ways to bring it in. I use the Frankensteiner from a lot of different spots: From the apron, from the post from the ropes, from the turnbuckle. And I dream up different dives in my head. That's the spirit of wrestling. Do what pops into your head.

"I can't really practice my moves. I might get hurt. I use them in my matches. If I'm going to get hurt, it might as well be in a match."

Rey Jr. does get his share of injuries. Right now he is nursing a bad knee. He's just getting over two injured ankles.

He thinks wrestling in WCW will be conductive to staying healthy.

"In Mexico, the rings are harder," he said. "Outside there aren't any mats - just a little dirt, maybe a little rock. I've always done my stuff whether the ring was good or bad, but it's a little easier on me in WCW because there are mats, and security barriers - the only time AAA has thatstuff is for television tapings.

"Also, in AAA they want you to do everything every night. It's a lot faster, you have to do a lot of stuff really fast. A lot of times you do one move after the other. In WCW it's a little more deliberate. It seems like there's more time between moves. That's good because I don't have to kill myself every second - and because I can get an advantage by speeding things up."

Rey Jr. harkens back to his Mexican style, however, when facing fellow AAA alumni like Juventud Guerrera and Super Calo.

"It's great, having those guys here," Rey Jr. said. "They have the Mexican style, same as me. It's one move after the other. We're all getting the WCW style, too. I think the matches are good."

No arguing that.

And there's no arguing that Rey Jr. is one of the most exciting wrestlers in WCW ... and in the entire wrestling world.

He has no intention of playing it safe, either.

"I've never come up with a move I thought was too daring or too dangerous," said Rey Jr. "I might be afraid, you could say, of doing a certain move. But I just do it until the fear goes away. And sometimes I feel a little heavy out there, then I train a little harder until I don't feel heavy."

Some might think Rey Jr. is acting more suicidal than ever when he talks about wrestling heavyweight. I say he can do it.

And I also say there is no thought more inviting then Rey Mysterio Jr. running circles around some big stiff, tiring him out, then taking him out with, say, a springboard Frankensteiner off the middle rope. Rey Jr. is right to have his dreams I just hope we all get to see them realized.

(Mark Madden hosts the WCW Hotline on Wednesdays and Fridays. He is the editor of Penguins Report, a hockey publication based in Pittsburgh, and a sports talk show on WTAE-AM 1250.)

THE Regal DECREE

TOKYO, Japan - As I sit here in my suite at the Keio Plaza, I must inform you Americans that, in light of all of the hooliganism brought on by The NWO, there is some positive WCW news: myself, Lord Steven Regal. Ever since defeating Lex Luger for the WCW TV Title, and as I told you during a nationally-television interview shortly thereafter, I was going to take this belt around the world, offering it as a reward to anyone, anywhere who thinks they can beat me. Well, as you might expect, that has not happened. Nor will it happen. I have lost it twice before and don't plan on losing it again. Wrestling is my life, and that belt means everything to me. Plus, let's face it, the WCW Heavyweight Championship is no longer a worthy title due to The NWO's vandalism to the belt. The WCW U.S. Title has never meant anything to me because I'm not a U.S. citizen. That's why, to me, the WCW TV Title is the only belt worth owning.

Over the past month-plus, I have been to England, Germany and here (twice), and I am trying my utmost to bring credibility back to WCW.

Let's start with England, that fine country of respectable citizens (sans WCW Magazine Editor Colin Bowman). Anyway, apart from a few wrestlers, I am absolutely appaled at the standard of the wrestling there. The people there know who I'm talking about as far as talent, gentlemen such as Robbie Brookside, Ian "Doc" Dean, "Skull" Murphy and Marty Jones. Otherwise, the vast majority of wrestlers ... well, I wouldn't even allow them to put up the ring if I had my say, and yet they are actually wrestling. I think these individuals, and they know who they are, have brought British wrestling down to an all time low.

The opposition improved when I arrived in Germany. I got to wrestle the Commonwealth champion, fellow Britain Tony St. Clair. He was, and is, skilled, but not talented enough to beat me. Another German match that I won't soon forget was against David "Fit" Finlay, who took it upon himself to break my nose once more. Well, as I've said on numerous occasions in the past, this thing between the two of us will not be finished until one of us has left the sport, and that's fine with me because I have a deep loathing for the man.

Japan, as far as I'm concerned, is the biggest hotbed of wrestling in the world. New Japan Pro Wrestling has the finest athletes anywhere. Their champion, Hashimoto, is a true champion in every sense of the word, and a very, very talented wrestler. The Japanese wrestlers are dedicated 100-percent to their sport, and it clearly shows in their product.

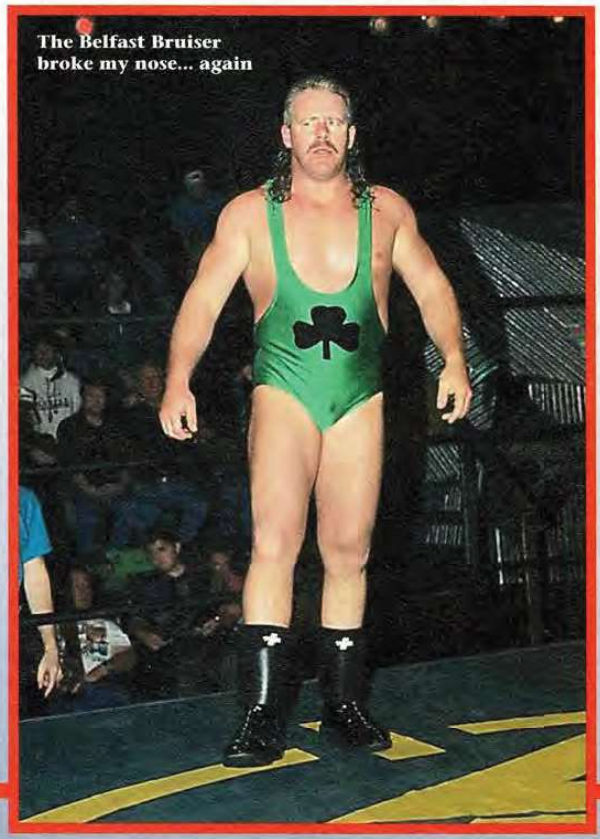
My world journey has been very grueling. I travel everyday and while I naturally only fly First Class, it has been very tough. In the near-future I plan to head to Mexico, although it is a filthy country with every kind of low-life known to man. Then onto that cesspit, the Middle East. As I head from airport to airport, I carry the championship belt inside my Halliburton suitcase. Every time it goes through the airport's x-ray machine, it is stopped, naturally. I get a mixed reaction from some ignorant people working those security positions. It seems all those people care to say to me is, 'Wrestling is fake.' But, I must inform them, and everyone else who might think that way, wrestling is not fake!! I think you need to get a proper grasp of the English language, e.g. Fake is something that never happened. If you fall over on the floor and hurt yourself, that's not fake. I have not gotten cauliflower ears by sleeping on a hard pillow. If you want to know what it feels like to be a wrestler, join a wrestling school!!

I would like to offer an opinion about The NWO, but, it would take up far too many pages in this magazine. Those NWO members are nothing but soccer hooligans with spray-paint. As far as I'm concerned, each one of them should be lashed. Give them the birch, then see how tough they really are. It's very easy to gang up on people, but, when it comes down to getting in the ring and performing, I don't think any of The NWO members are even worthy of washing my boots. The NWO is nothing but a bunch of heathens with nothing better to do than to cause mayhem. Well, I've got a little warning for Mr. Hogan, Mr. Hall, Mr. Nash and the rest of The NWO, when I have completed my world tour, I'm going to start taking control of the scene in WCW. There may be more of them, but there is more to me than meets the eye. I've got that indomitable, fighting English spirit, that Bulldog breed.

Before I close this month, I would like to extend my heart-felt sympathy to the family of Indio Guyaryo, a Columbian who was one of the greatest wrestlers I have ever known. He was one of the most charismatic, talented wrestlers to be in this business. He is a great, great loss to the wrestling world and I never will forget him. He was one of the classiest gentleman I have ever met in the wrestling business.

Toodle-pip!

Your Lordship.



The Belfast Bruiser broke my nose... again

from the top
ERIC BISCHOFF

Deadlines never come at the right moment. "I need it now!" the editor always yells and, when he does, he wants it that minute — not two or three days later. Why do I bring this up?

Because my buddies Colin Bowman and Ross Forman at WCW Magazine insisted I finish my column by Oct. 25, 1996. Oh, sure, I had several weeks to write it; that wasn't a problem. The dilemma was, what to say — and be fairly timely. Forty-eight hours after my column went to press, WCW went into the biggest pay-per-view in company history. So did "Macho Man" Randy Savage. So, maybe I'll talk a moment or two about "Macho."

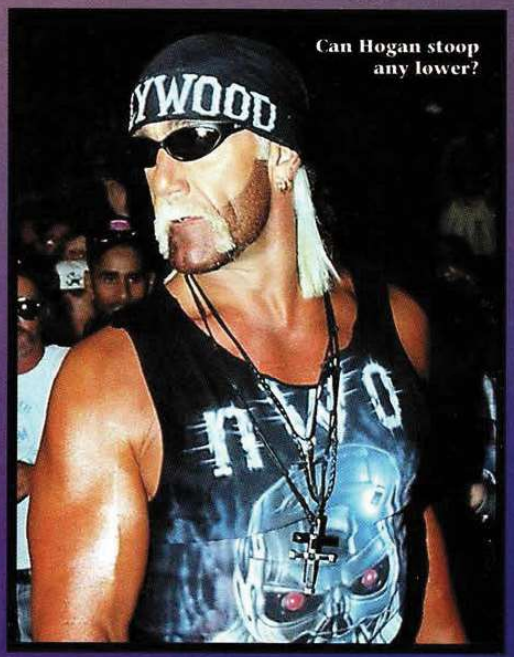
I don't talk directly to Randy too often; I don't know what to say to Randy. Quite frankly, Randy is an enigma. Randy is hard to figure out. He's unpredictable; he's moody, he's obsessed to a certain extent with what's going on with The NWO, and also with a lot of other issues here in WCW. Randy Savage is just kind of out there in his own little world. But one thing is certain about Randy Savage, Halloween Havoc is a must-win situation for him, no question about it. I think Randy's career is kind of hanging in limbo on the outcome because, quite frankly, if he is defeated by The NWO, his ability to re-negotiate his contract with WCW is going to be more difficult for him. This is a big match for Randy, a very big match. Randy is in a pretty elite group in terms of his compensation, and he's not going to be able to command that kind of money if he's not able to maintain his status as a top performer. If he ends up losing, I think it's going to be very difficult for Randy to try to convince anyone that he really is a marquee player.

WCW has so much to gain if Savage beats "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan; we have a tremendous amount to gain and we also have a tremendous amount to lose in terms of momentum if The NWO prevails. So, there is a lot at stake.

A month after Havoc is the pay-per-view extravaganza World War 3, and I'd like to say a word or two about that. After listening to a lot of people comment about the idea of vacating the World Heavyweight title after Halloween Havoc and then putting it up for grabs at World War 3 ... well, the vast majority of responses I received were pretty negative. So, in light of that, I seriously doubt that we are going to move forward with that plan. More than likely, we will not strip the champion, but, I reserve the right to change my mind.

Let's see what else is happening. How about J.J. Dillon, the former manager of The Four Horsemen who, in early-October, returned to WCW after a several year absence while working up north? Everyone is trying to put J.J. with The Horsemen and I will tell you emphatically that, it will not happen. If he is going to be part of WCW for the long term, he will be a part of the front-office staff, in an administrative role. He will not be involved with the wrestling product.

Each and every week, it seems like The NWO finds new lines to step over and new lows to reach within the wrestling and television industry. What "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan did to The Lovely Miss Elizabeth on Oct. 7th at Monday Nitro was a disgusting incident that caught a lot of us by surprise, but, in other ways, we shouldn't have been surprised at how low The NWO will stoop.


Can Hogan stoop any lower?

I keep hearing rumors about myself joining The NWO. Well, I want to make it clear, those are nothing but rumors. And I've never seen a rumor with an ounce of credibility. Sure, I don't expect a whole lot of people to be optimistic about WCW's future, but, let me say this: the same thing could have been said about WCW two- or three-years ago. I remember listening to all of the so-called 'wrestling experts' suggest that WCW is going to be history, that there is no way WCW ever will exist, that there is no way WCW can compete with the WWF, that WCW doesn't have any talent, that Eric Bischoff does not know how to run a wrestling company, and on and on and on. I heard a whole bunch of people for a long time write our obituaries, WCW's obituaries, but, I think I've proven that WCW is a company that is viable, that it is a company that under all kinds of stress has been able to rise above the competition. We will find a way to prevail.

One other area I'd like to address: Dusty Rhodes. It seems a lot of people have speculated why Dusty, a WCW stalwart, has not played a larger role in stopping The NWO. Well, with all due respect to Dusty Rhodes, he retired from the ring a number of years ago ... I think it would be a little bit of a stretch to think that Dusty Rhodes would get physically involved in anything that has to do with The NWO. As for a leadership role, well, his role within WCW is that of a color commentator and that's it. Quite frankly, I'm a little surprised that people are in fact surprised that Dusty is not more involved.

Well, folks, that's it for this month. See you in 30 days — or right after my next deadline.

Eric Bischoff.

ANATOMY OF A WRESTLER

A FATHER'S VIEW

Jessie Irvine must be smiling.

A mother of three (Joan, Peg and Ted), Jessie had a simple Saturday evening: watch Maple Leaf Wrestling out of Toronto, then Hockey Night in Canada. Those were her passions and, yes, quite possibly, in that order; pro wrestling, then pro hockey.

Jessie died about 10 years ago, but her loves have flourished within her family. Her son, Ted, spent parts of 11 seasons in the NHL, while her grandson, Chris, (Ted's son) has blossomed as one of the brightest young superstars in World Championship Wrestling (WCW).

Yep, Jessie would be smiling.

"My mom loved wrestling, as did my sisters. In fact, the three of them bought Chris his first tickets to go see Hulk Hogan in the Winnipeg Arena," said Irvine (pronounced: Ir-vin). "I've been watching wrestling since I was a kid. I love the sport as a sport and how it has progressed over the years. I've learned a lot about the sport from Chris, about the different styles, the different crowds, etc. I truly admire anyone who works out as much as those wrestlers do. Sure, we worked out when I played hockey, but not to the degree that those guys do."

Irvine's son is WCW's young sensation "Lionheart" Chris Jericho, the fan favorite known for his blonde flowing locks, a golden tan and a chiseled chest.

"Chris is a tough little bugger," Irvine said. "I think he's still developing his style, even though he's had, oh, about 500 bouts. I think he's tough, acrobatic, very creative, smart and very bright. I enjoy the speed and the strength that he possesses, even though he's still learning who the real Chris Jericho really is.

"The biggest similarity that I find between hockey and pro wrestling is, the camaraderie. I'm impressed by the friendships Chris has developed through wrestling, with people all around the world. They believe in each other, they support each other. And that's something Chris and I talk about a lot. The other similarity is very simple, and I tell him this all the time, 'You've got to perform.' Heck, I often ask him, 'How did you do it on those nights in front of small crowds?' And his answer is simple, 'I had to, I'm a professional.'

Chris played hockey through high school, then went — and graduated from — Red River Community College. He then went to the Stu Hart Training School in Calgary — for future wrestlers, not hockey players.

"I sometimes wonder if Chris would have wanted to go in to hockey as a career because he loves the sport so much. But it wasn't his sport," Irvine said. "I knew early on that hockey just didn't jump up and grab him.

"Chris is a bright guy, he is an entertainer, he loves music, plays and writing. Sure, he played hockey, it didn't come easy, but he played it for the right reasons; because he had fun. When he got into high school he displayed some aggression. Even though he didn't have a high skill level at scoring goals, he all of a sudden found a role that he could play, and that was as a feisty checker, so he would just run over people, he was fearless. He had this heart, that hey, if someone was going into the corner (of the rink against him), he was the one who was going to come out with the puck. Plus, Chris always stuck up for his buddies.

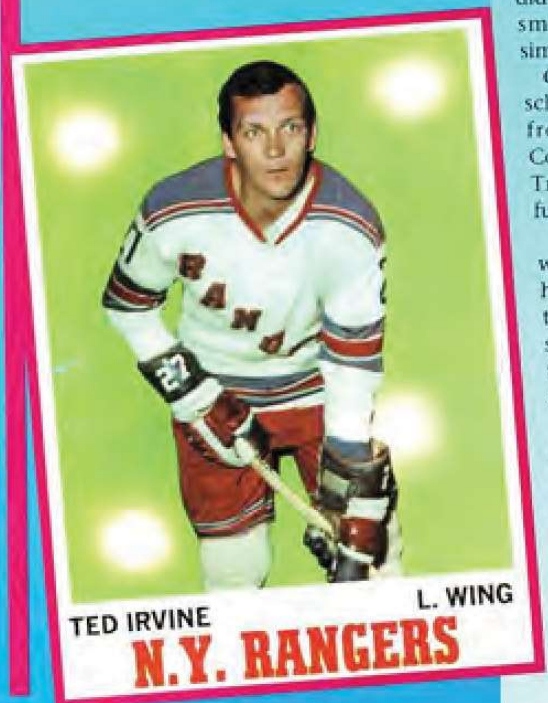
"At about 14, he really started getting interested in weight lifting, and you could see a change almost right away. At 16 he started talking about wrestling and by 17 he was really interested."

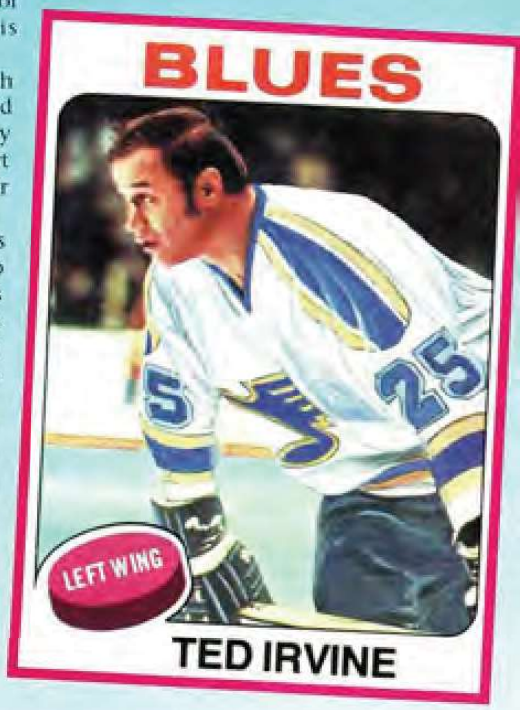
And then came the late-1980s Celebrity All-Star Hockey Game that changed Chris' life for good.

You see, after the Celebrity game there was a banquet which Chris attended. And so did legendary wrestler-turned-broadcaster Jesse "The Body" Ventura. The two spoke for about an hour.

"Jesse stressed the importance of first completing his education, and that's exactly what Chris did," Irvine said.

Chris can now be seen most Monday





evenings on WCW Monday Nitro (8 p.m. ET, TNT). Not to mention the Saturday and Sunday shows on TBS.

"The first thing that runs through my head when I see Chris wrestle is; 'Is he going to be accepted?' I know that in the professional wrestling world, the most important thing is, to be accepted, just like it was for me in hockey," Irvine said. "I always knew that I had to do something special in training camp so they would invite me back the next day. Whether it was run over someone or simply score a goal. That's how it is for Chris. He has to perform each and every night, just so the promoters will invite him back the next day.

"I will always remember Chris' first match in the early-1990s here in Winnipeg; it was against 'Bulldog' Bob Brown and held before, oh, several hundred intoxicated patrons at a local bar, the Garden City Inn. I remember that 'Bulldog' Bob Brown wanted to make something of this local hero, so he bombarded Chris with kicks and punches, but Chris fought back ... I was very proud of him. Then and now as well."

Irvine added: "I know pro wrestling is a fun sport, but it definitely is a tough sport. Heck, I remember a ladder match Chris once had in Calgary against Lance Storm, it was one of the best matches I have ever seen. To this day, I still remember the announcer saying afterwards, 'Anyone want to buy a broken ladder?'"

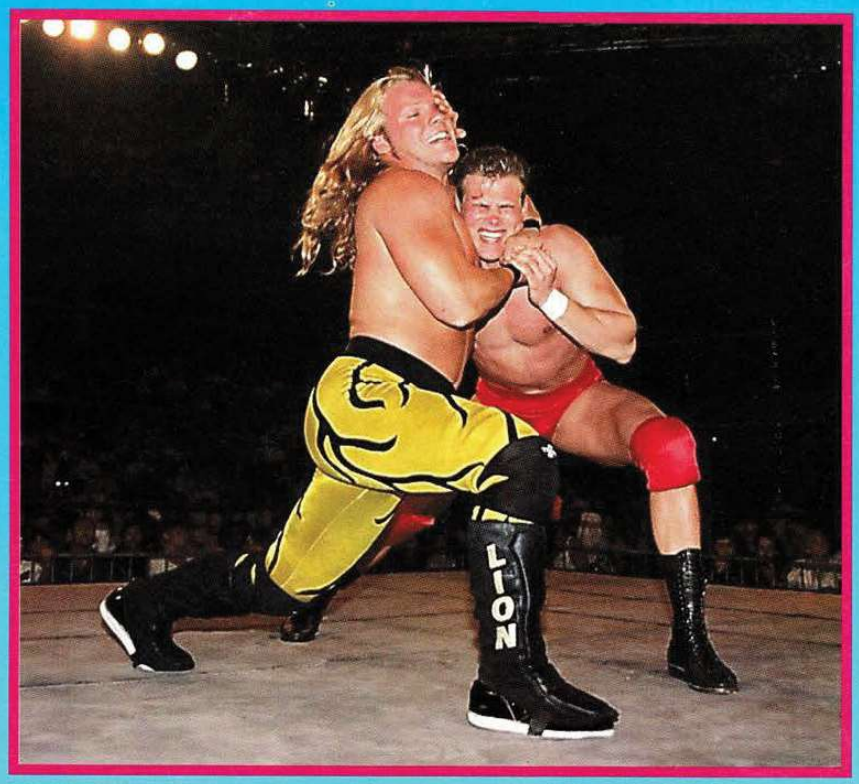
Irvine's NHL career spanned 724 regular-season games, ending in the spring of 1977 with the St. Louis Blues. He also spent time with Boston (one game in 1963-64), Los Angeles (as an original member of the Kings) and the New York Rangers. He played in 83 play off games. Irvine once scored an overtime goal in 19 seconds which, at the time, broke a 20-year record, the 19 second mark has since broken.

"As I look back, there are certain things that I will always remember, especially, the six years I spent with the New York Rangers. We went to the Stanley Cup and should have won it, but didn't; that's the only thing I am disappointed about from my career," said Irvine, who recorded the first assist in Los Angeles franchise history.

Irvine's best NHL season came in 1973-74, when he netted 26 goals and 20 assists. He played his final two seasons (1975-77) with the St. Louis Blues, and scored a combined 24 goals with 27 assists those two years included a most memorable goal against Detroit.

That's because, earlier in the day, while son Chris was playing an amateur game at the same stadium, he scored his first goal.

"When Chris scored, he actually threw the puck back on the ice and said, 'That's OK; I have a lot of pucks back home,'" Irvine recalls with a smile. "We told Chris that the puck from your first goal is very special to have. So, I now have his puck and my puck from that night framed on a plaque at home."

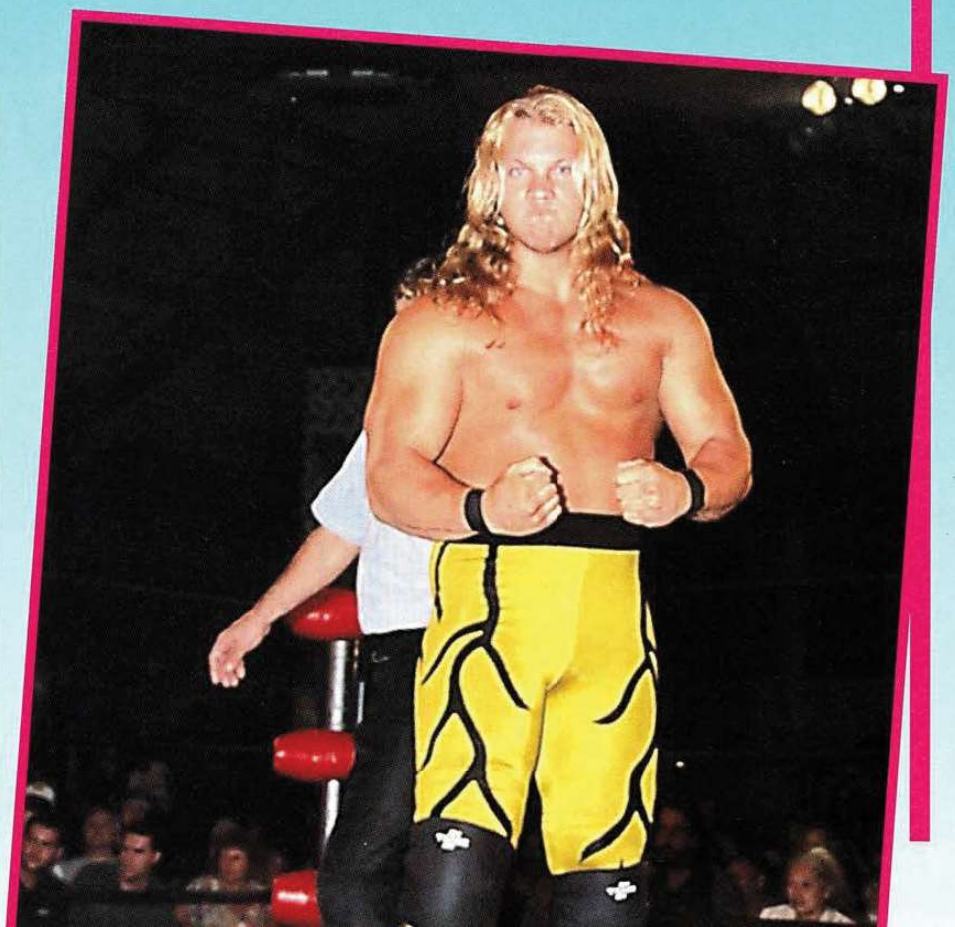


Irvine scored 154 regular-season goals and 16 in post-season play. He had a combined 201 assists. He also had 657 regular-season penalty minutes and 115 in the playoffs.

"Teddy reminded me of (Hall of Famer) Frank Mahavolich in some ways," said former Philadelphia Flyer great Joe Watson. "Teddy was a big, strong left winger who went up and down his wing and always did his job and kept his nose clean, but, when things got out of hand on the ice, he could straighten out almost anyone rather quickly; Teddy was a good fighter.

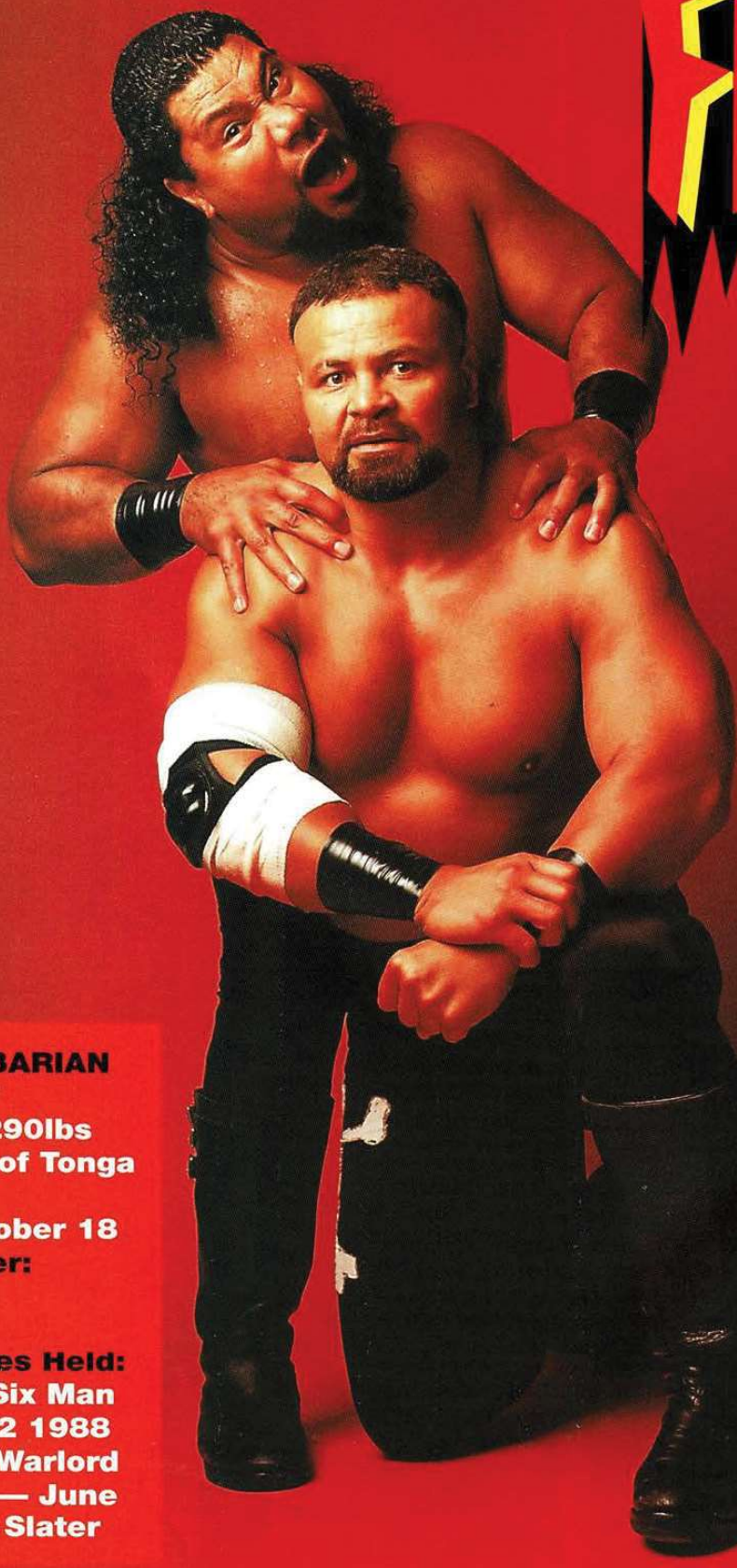
"He was not a spectacular player, just a good, honest player."

His son on the other hand is one of the world's most spectacular wrestlers and no one is prouder of him than his Dad.



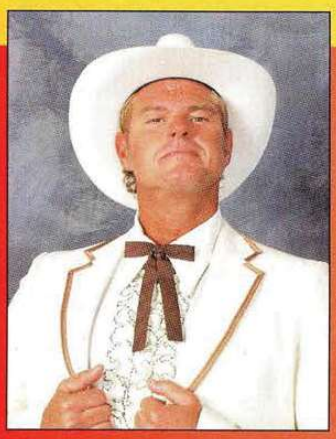
EXPERT ASSESSMENT

THE FACES OF FEAR



MENG & THE BARBARIAN
Height: 6'2" & 6'4"
Weight: 300lbs & 290lbs
Hometown: Island of Tonga
Birthdate:
February 10 & October 18
Signature Maneuver:
Asiatic Spike &
Tongan Kick
Previous WCW Titles Held:
Barbarian: World Six Man Title — February 12 1988 with Ivan Koloff & Warlord
US Tag Team Title — June 25 1992 with Dick Slater

In this exclusive WCW Magazine feature, four of World Championship Wrestling's most knowledgeable personalities take an up-close-and-personal look at current WCW Superstars. These aren't comments you'll hear at the arenas or on TV-these are the true beliefs of the biggest and most provocative mindsets in the sport today!



Colonel Robert Parker

Those two Faces of Fear, Meng and The Barbarian, are big and as strong as mules. And with the leadership of Jimmy Hart, they will always be title contenders. But that's it! My team, Harlem Heat (Booker T and Stevie Ray) is bigger and stronger, and obviously there is no comparison between myself and Jimmy Hart. Especially when I have my sweet potatoe pie, Sherri, by my side. I don't think The Faces of Fear would last 15 seconds with the Heat.

Col. Robert Parker is the self-proclaimed greatest showman in the world. He has several top WCW wrestlers under his guidance.

Dusty Rhodes

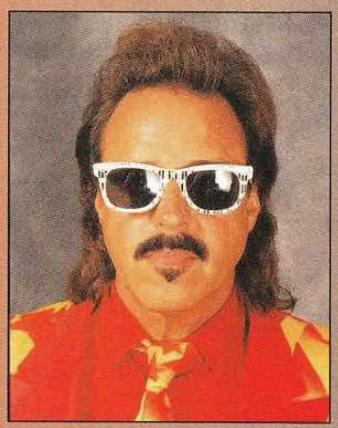
The Faces of Fear have everything needed to be champions of the world: speed, strength, stamina and endurance. So what's holding them back? Better yet, who's holding them back? Jimmy Hart, that no-good snake-in-the-grass. Meng and The Barbarian need the skill of a manager who is devoted to them, and just them. Jimmy has too many other talents to take care of in The Dungeon of Doom, and that might be holding back The Faces of Fear. They need to move on by themselves, or find a manager with their interests at heart and forget Jimmy and The Dungeon.

Dusty Rhodes, "The American Dream," is one of the most popular wrestlers of all time. During his incredible career he has managed to win the NWA World Heavyweight Championship on three different occasions.

Larry Zbyszko

When it comes to power, there is no tag team in professional wrestling that ranks up there with Meng and The Barbarian, The Faces of Fear. There might not be two individuals anywhere who can stand toe-to-toe with these two guys. These two are street fighters who can hurt an opponent any number of ways. They have forgotten more nerve-and-submission-holds than most wrestlers will ever know. They are scary, it's that simple. This is a team that should be champions, could be champions and probably will be if they get a title shot.

"Living Legend" Larry Zbyszko is regarded as one of the greatest wrestlers in history. He is currently the co-host of Monday Nitro Live on TNT.

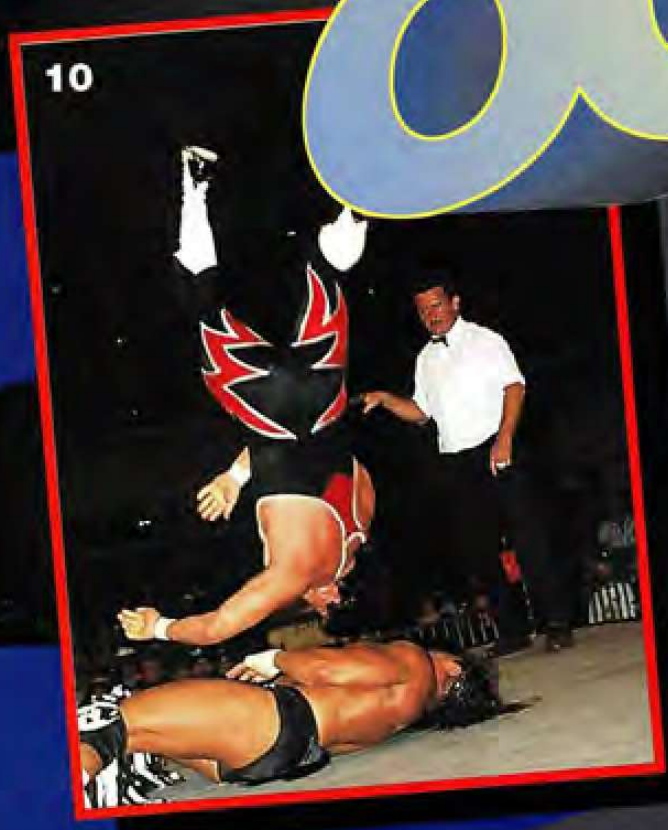


Jimmy Hart

It's a conspiracy! That's right, a conspiracy! Meng and The Barbarian, The Faces of Fear, are the greatest tag team I have ever assembled and, as you know, I have managed some of the greatest tag teams of all-time. The thing is, the WCW Executive Committee won't give The Faces of Fear a title shot. I think it's because Meng and The Barbarian are from the Island of Tonga, so English certainly is not their first language. Well, that's where the "Mouth of the South" Jimmy Hart comes in, to see that justice is served. And, trust me, it will be served!

Jimmy Hart is arguably the greatest manager in the history of the sport. Currently he is associated with The Dungeon of Doom.

ten oohs FROM TENAY



WCW broadcaster Mike Tenay is, arguably, the most knowledgeable man in the sport. He's been watching wrestling for four decades and, as the old saying goes, has forgotten more about wrestling than most of us will ever know. He is a wealth of knowledge thanks to the countless matches he has seen in person and the thousands of wrestling videos — from around the world — that he has viewed.

That said, and with a little help from Webster's Dictionary (oohs, as in something said to express amazement, joy or surprise), WCW Magazine is proud to present the Top 10 wrestling moves (as of the fall of 1996). Tenay promises to update the list on a regular basis, so stay tuned.

10. EDDIE GUERRERO'S FROG-SPLASH

A simple splash off the top rope, a move used by others — but none like Guerrero.

"The thing that gets me each time I see it is, the incredible elevation and leg spring that Eddie has," Tenay said.

Guerrero has used the finisher for several years. He was effective with it in Mexico while with AAA and has taken the move across the border.

9. BILLY KIDMAN'S SHOOTING STAR PRESS

A shocker, no doubt, but one of the most eye-catching moves in wrestling.

While standing on the top rope looking out at the ring, Kidman does a 360 degree, inside out flip into a splash.

"It is not rated on this list because he has been 100 percent successful with it. In fact, on several occasions he has missed with the move; his opponent has moved out of the pin and then gotten the pin on Kidman. It is, instead, rated on this list because of the degree of difficulty in pulling the move off," Tenay said. "With experience, Billy will be wiser about when to use it."

The move was invented by masked legend Jushin "Thunder" Liger of New Japan Pro Wrestling.

8. THE DRAGON SCREW LEGWHIP BY KEIJI MUTOH (THE GREAT MUTA)

When wrestling without his facepaint, Mutoh possesses one of the most effective moves around, especially in Japan.

"It's a hold where less is more," Tenay said. "Mutoh has his hands on the leg of an opponent by the knee then, with a quick twisting move, looks like he's trying to pop the opponent's kneecap out. It's a very difficult move to describe ... it's one of those moves that you almost have to see to believe.

"It's incredible to see the audience go nuts when this is applied."

Chris Benoit has used the hold on several TV matches. "Benoit is the only American to use it on a regular basis," Tenay said.

The move is often a set-up to another leg debilitating finisher.

7. KENSUKE SASAKI'S NORTHERN LIGHTS BOMB

This is a Northern Lights suplex turned into a powerbomb, which has been used frequently on WCW pay-per-view events.

"The ironic part of the move is Sasaki's wife, Akira Hokuto, who also has wrestled in WCW, used the move as her finisher for years. Then, after they got married, he integrated it into his repertoire of finishers," Tenay said.

6. CHRI BENOIT'S SUPERPLEX

A simple top rope suplex that "is as impressive against 5-foot-10 Dean Malenko as against 7-foot-plus Big Ron Studd," Tenay said, "a must for any list of oohs."

Benoit has used the move on numerous Nitro shows.

5. ULTIMO DRAGON'S ASAI MOONSAULT

With his dazed opponent on the floor, Ultimo Dragon stands on the apron of the ring with his back to his opponent. He then jumps into the air, springboarding off the second rope and flipping into a moonsault and landing on his foe on the floor.

"The interesting thing about this move is, Dragon invented it and, it bears his real last name," Tenay said.

Rey Mysterio, Jr., and Juventud Guerrera also have performed the move in WCW matches.

4. PUBLIC ENEMY'S TABLE-ASSAULT

Rocco Rock moonsault's his opponent through the table.

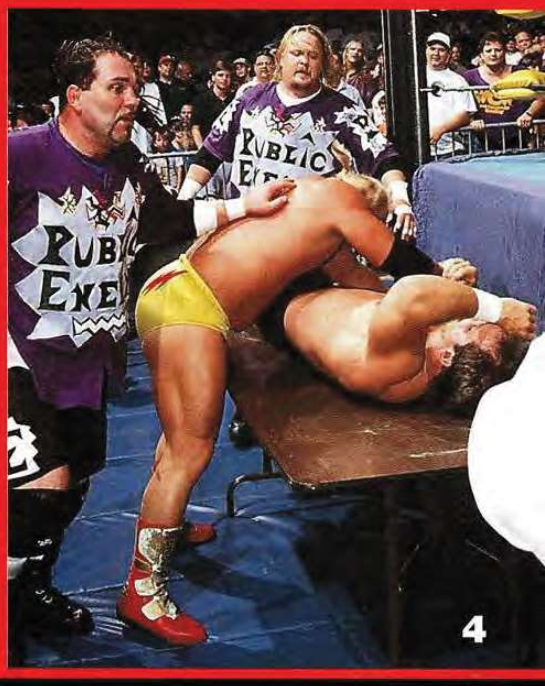
"Their motto is 'Violent by design and naughty by nature,'" Tenay began, "Well, you can now add: 'Intimidation by furniture.'

Rocco Rock and Johnny Grunge have several table-smashing moves, most of which result in victory.

3. KONAN'S POWERDROP

This move can be delivered inside the ring, but is more effective when done from the middle rope. It is a move invented in Japan, brought to Mexico and now leaving its mark in the U.S.

"A pin is always imminent thereafter," Tenay said.



2. JUVENTUD GUERRERA'S HIRO CON PLANCHA

Although broadcaster Larry Zbyszko jokes that he should have studied Spanish at Penn State instead of French, Guerrera's hiro con plancha (a Spanish word) is effective in any language.

It is a springboard into a corkscrew in the mid air, then into a splash on his opponent. Guerrera scored several Nitro victories in September with this move.

"I was sitting about 10 feet away from where Guerrera did it one time and, let me tell you, it really is an impressive move. Especially when you're right there," Tenay said. "The hiro con plancha is just another in a long line of revolutionary moves that the Cruiserweights have brought from Mexico to the United States. It seems, on a nightly basis, that they are playing a game of 'Can You Top This?' I guess the Cruiserweights spend most of their time away from the ring developing new, high-risk moves ... and the hiro con plancha is the latest. Plus, hey, it's a great name."

And, finally, the No. 1 Ooh from Tenay is:

1. THE TRIPLE SPRINGBOARD HURACANRANA BY REY MYSTERIO JR.

"Refer to Fall Brawl video tape ... Mysterio's win over Super Calo ... the move was awesome, simply incredible," Tenay said.

The triple springboard huracanrana is where Mysterio performs a backflip from the top rope of one ring onto the second ring where he then springboards from top rope to top rope and concludes it with a picture-perfect huracanrana.

Tenay said the September version was the first he had ever seen, "and we may have to wait until War Games 1997, when there will be another two-ring setting, to see it again. But it will be well worth the wait."

BRAIN REACTION

Bobby "The Brain" Heenan is the co-host of WCW Monday Nitro Live on TNT. He also serves as color commentator on WCW Clash and PPV broadcasts.
All the views expressed are his and his alone!

As you know, I'm not one to spread rumors, I'll leave that to all of the other busybodies here in WCW (Mark Madden, Mike Tenay, etc., etc., etc.). So, when I say something, it's fact. Bank on it. It will happen. Or, it has already happened. Where am I going with this? Well, it's like this; WCW Magazine publisher Colin Bowman is on the take. Yep, he's an NWO'er. Oh, sure, he'll say a negative word or two about The NWO, but do you really think a publisher would give away 20 percent of his magazine if ... well, if he wasn't getting something in return? I don't. And I've got the proof. Did you see Colin ringside at the Monday Nitro that aired from Cleveland in early-October? Or the following week from Savannah? Nope. He wasn't at either. Instead, where was he? Lounging at Waikiki Beach in Honolulu. Let's face it, the Limey eats beanies and weanies three times a day and combs his hair with his toothbrush to save money, do you think he can afford three weeks at a five-star hotel on the beach. No way ... but Ted DiBiase certainly can. Heck, Ted DiBiase could own Waikiki. What does this mean for WCW Magazine? I have no idea, at least not yet, but between myself and my trusty ally Woody, we'll get to the bottom of this.

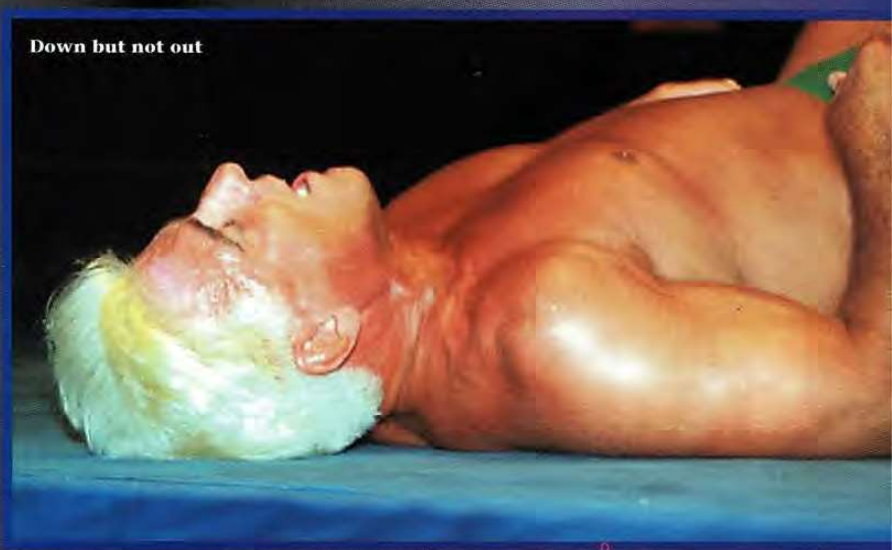
The Lovely Miss Elizabeth has never been one of my favorites. She's frail, ditzy and, as amazing as it may be, blonde under that wig. And she's also quite confused. One day she loves her ex, "Macho Man" Randy Savage, the next, she hates him. One day she loves "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan; the next, she hates him. One day she loves Ric Flair, the next, she hates him. Maybe she should just find four other friends, then she'd have a flavor for every day of the week.

In my eyes, Woman is the only woman who can be trusted in WCW. Debra? No way! She'd dump her husband Steve "Mongo" McMichael quicker than you can say one-hundred-dollar-bill if Bill Gates asked her on a date. Madusa? Look at her hair? What color is it? Blonde ... need I say more. Sister Sherri? Nope. She's too busy trying to look like Bette Davis.

A lot of people have been asking about J.J. Dillon who, in October, returned to WCW in an administrative capacity. Everyone is asking, 'Is he going back to The Four Horsemen?' Well, to me, the interesting thing is, no one has been asking, 'Is he trying to infiltrate WCW's executive office on behalf of The NWO?' Hey, let's face it, no one can be trusted. J.J. is a nice guy, we get along quite well and I love talking with him about his beloved Brooklyn Dodgers (gee, I wonder if I should tell him that the team has moved to Los Angeles? Nah, he's too stupid to know the difference between East and West.) Anyway, who's to say he's not getting a paycheck from Ted DiBiase for his information? Or sharing secret WCW tips with The Outsiders; Scott Hall and Kevin Nash? After all, you've got to remember that he's been living in the North East for about eight years — and so have DiBiase, Hall and Nash.

Have you noticed the way Chris Jericho throws himself in among the fans after winning a match? Well, to me that is the dumbest thing anyone can do. Who would want a humanoid touching you? Especially some of these WCW fans

Who would you trust?



Down but not out

with seven teeth. Then again, he is from Canada, and you know what they say about Canadians ...

Did you know Chris Jericho's Daddy, Ted Irvine, played for about 10 years in the NHL? Well, he never really played ... Ted was the one who taped everyone's stick.

Is there a limit to the number of Mexicans competing in the Cruiserweight division? There should be, because the more of them I see, the more I have to see Mike Tenay. And Tenay is nothing but a Las Vegas Loser, a twerp with so much free time on his hand that he washes his coins before he puts them in the slot machines.

I'd like to wish a full, speedy recovery to "Nature Boy" Ric Flair who, in October, was to have surgery on his shoulder. You are the greatest and professional wrestling is not the same without you!!

"Hollywood" Hulk Hogan has fallen below the slime line. He now rates among the muck. Hogan has no business in this business. He is an embarrassment to the profession I have spent my entire life in.

I never thought I'd say these words, 'Go Randy Go!' But I did. Randy, as dumb as he may be, is a dedicated individual. He's stuck with WCW through all the good and all of the bad times. And there have been plenty of bad.

The most underrated tag team in WCW is The Faces of Fear, Meng and The Barbarian. Who knows when, or if, they will win the WCW Tag Team titles. But, I will say this, those are the two strongest individuals in the sport ... bar none. Who's No. 1 and who's No. 2? Well, that all depends on what Meng had for breakfast.

David Penzer had close to 100 female fans cheering his every move at Halloween Havoc. And they were some of the most gorgeous blondes I had ever seen ... granted they were gorgeous men the night before.

Nick Patrick levies a $1 million fine on Randy Savage for striking an official. I bet Ted DiBiase wouldn't spit, I mean, bat an eyelash at that. In fact, knowing Ted like I do, my guess is he'd give $5 million for any future incidents.

It's almost time to cast ballots again for the 1996 WCW Awards. (Don't forget: Bobby for Broadcaster of the Year). I'd like a new category thrown in this year: Bust of the Year. And, well, the 1996 award goes to Sgt. Craig "Poodle" Pittman, who single-handedly threw his career down the drain by signing with Teddy Long, the most useless hair-ball, er, cue-ball around. The title of Stiff of the Year goes to "Big" Ron Studd. "Big" John must be rolling over in his grave every time he sees you.

Do you remember the song, 'When The Going Gets Tough, The Tough Get Going'? Well, Sting, you took that too literally...:. What's wrong, is life too tough among the 'big boys'?

Kimberly has been seen at Monday Nitro throughout October in new duds. She's looking quite corporate these days, straight off of Madison Avenue. What gives? I don't know.

The Pittsburgh Penguins and my good friend Mario Lemieux had better be careful. "Flounder" Mark Madden now works for the Penguins, and the team's lunch buffet only runs from 11-2!

Talk about sincere, that could be Lord Steven Regal's middle name, if Steven wasn't. I received a postcard from Manchester, sent by him during his world journey. What an honor.

What do you get when Rey Mysterio, Jr., stands on Eddie Guerrero's shoulders? Someone I can look at eye-to-eye.

Harlem Heat (Stevie Ray and Booker T.) needs to dump the management duo of Col. Robert Parker and Sister Sherri. Parker loves Sherri, Sherri loves Parker, but neither gives a damn about Harlem Heat. And it shows. Harlem Heat oughta consider

Tough guy... don't make me laugh

Jimmy Hart, because he's the best in the business since I'm retired.

As we're talking about tag teams, I must inform the world that Johnny Grunge of Public Enemy and Scott Steiner of The Steiner Brothers will be out of action for a couple of weeks. I guess the folks at True Value threw a party to celebrate.

Glacier win, brings a chill to my spine. But don't worry, as soon as he loses, warmth will return to my heart.

That's if for this month, humanoids. I'm outta here.

The Brain

Makes my blood run cold

FLASH point

Scott Norton and Ed Lind have been lifelong buddies, friends through thick and thin. When Norton was in trouble, Lind was there. And vice versa. So, when Lind suggested to the then-18-year-old Norton that he participate in an arm-wrestling tournament in their native Minnesota, Norton knew he would have at least one fan. Norton registered and competed in his first tournament, an event run by Ed White, then the NFL Arm-Wrestling Champion ... and Norton won! Plus, he accepted a challenge by White and beat him too. In a second.

So was born the legend of "Flash" Norton, arm-wrestling superhero turned pro wrestling powerhouse.

"Arm-wrestling is like anything else, if you're good at it and give 110 (percent), hey, you might come out on top," Norton said. "Arm-wrestling is a one-on-one sport, that's for sure; there's no tag-teaming in that. And, yeah, it's an ego sport. It's a sport I thoroughly enjoy, and I do miss it."

And why not ... Norton reached mythical stature in this sport of strong-uns. Consider:

- He has had more than 500 matches, and only lost six times, five of them to the Andre The Giant-like Cleve Dean, a 6-foot-10, 630-pounder. Norton's last loss was in 1983.
- He won the Over The Top World Championship in 1986, an event held in Las Vegas in conjunction with the Sylvester Stallone movie. And who did he beat for the title? Cleve Dean.
- Norton has won six national titles, four international titles and numerous regional and European titles.

"You've got to be one strong son-of-a-gun to beat me in arm-wrestling," barks Norton, who has been "unofficially" retired from arm-wrestling since 1989, the year he turned to pro wrestling through his friendship with Olympian Brad Rheingans. "I always hear guys in the locker room saying things like, 'Oh, yeah, I could take him, but no one ever steps forward. Well, I would like one wrestler to step forward: Ice Train. I'm issuing a challenge to Ice Train right here, right now. However, I doubt he'll accept my challenge, because he knows I'll snap him, then stick his arm down his throat."

Norton is a muscle-laden Minnesota native who now lives in Georgia. He is 6-foot-2, 340-pounds of sheer bulldog, a street-fighter in wrestling garb. He is aggressive and anxious for all comers, and certainly not scared of any. Heck, in his WCW debut — ironically in Minneapolis, during the debut of Monday Nitro last September — Norton went nose-to-nose with a WCW legend, "Macho Man" Randy Savage. Fear? Forget it, Norton doesn't know the word.

"As I look back on my first year in WCW, it was a year of ups and downs. I've had some good matches and also some down matches," Norton said. "The highs were singles matches, the lows were tag matches with Ice Train. Sure, Fire & Ice was the 'Tag Team of the Future' on paper, but paper doesn't win championships. You have to have two people going in the same direction for a tag-team to succeed; one can't be more worried about how he looks or what he's doing after the match. You've got to be focused 110 (percent) all the time, and that was not the case with Ice Train.

"As far as I'm concerned, the eight months I was together with Ice Train were a total loss. Of time and effort. I should have been concentrating on something else. Fire & Ice was a step up for his career, a huge step down for mine."

Norton was a tag team champion with Hercules (as the Jurassic Powers) in 1993-94 while wrestling for New Japan Pro

Wrestling. The team, though, disbanded.

So what's his focus nowadays?

Singles action. And singles titles.

"I don't want to rely on anyone else but myself," Norton said. "I shouldn't have counted on Ice Train, and found out I couldn't.

"Everyone has potential and ability, but, unless you want to take it and apply it to your utmost ability, you're not going to get anywhere. That was the case with Ice Train. The greatest football player in the world ain't nothing unless he laces 'em up and goes out there 110 (percent) on gameday. Ice Train has all the potential in the world; he could be one of the greatest wrestlers of all time, but he never put 110 into it."

Despite his muscle mass, Norton is an agile big-man. Plus, he has speed and some vicious tactics that rank up there with anyone. He has 21-inch biceps that, when wrapped around an opponent, can cause as much damage as, say, a powerbomb.

"When push comes to shove, I bring it to the ring every time I'm out there. You get your money's worth when you come to watch Scott Norton.," he said. Norton's wrestling career started in the now-defunct AWA of Verne Gagne. He also has wrestled for regional promotions in Canada and Portland, Ore.

And, of course, Japan.

Norton has reached legendary status in the Far East. He is a main eventer every time he steps into a New Japan Pro Wrestling ring.

"The pace over there is so much faster and harder, the matches seem to be much, much longer than here in the U.S. And they seem to be more vicious," said Norton, one of WCW's bright spots during a mid-September tour of Tokyo; he actually had to withdraw from the finals of the inter-promotional tournament after dislocating his shoulder during a match with Tenzan. "To get a win over there, it seems like you've gotta go for, oh, 20-to-25 minutes.

"Once you come back from Japan, you're ready to wrestle in the States, put it that way. Everyone knows you've been there and everyone seems to be worried about a guy coming from Japan because it is a pretty gutty, gory thing over there."

Speaking of gory, that leads to The NWO, and boy did Norton have some interesting things to say about this gang of thugs led by "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan, The Outsiders Scott Hall and Kevin Nash and The Giant.

"Personally, I think it's pretty good what they're doing, the way they're going. I like the way they're doing their own thing. They got it going on as far as I'm concerned," Norton said.

So, Scott, have you been contacted by Ted DiBiase or any other NWO member about joining?

"I cannot confirm nor deny anything," he said.

Hmmm, kinda makes us wonder, because Norton certainly is a wrestler who enjoys kicking butt and taking names.

POWERING ON

Years ago, Jim Powers was an impressive wrestler at Paramus (N.J.) High School. He was the talk of the town for two years (his sophomore and junior seasons), but, instead of enduring the rigors that go with the sport at the amateur level, he opted for the easy way out: Powers quit the team as a senior, the year he could have done his best.

It was a mistake that Powers and his former prep coach (Bill Savage) talk about to this day ... and the motivation for his professional career.

"One of the main reasons I want to excel in professional wrestling is, to erase the mistake I made as a high school senior; quitting the team," Powers said. "The fact that I gave up is a huge motivation for me to succeed now."

Powers, a Paramus graduate, is a New York native who moved to New Jersey before his 10th birthday. He was active in amateur wrestling, judo and, obviously, bodybuilding. Nowadays, he spends five or six days-a-week in the gym, training daily for up to three hours at a time.

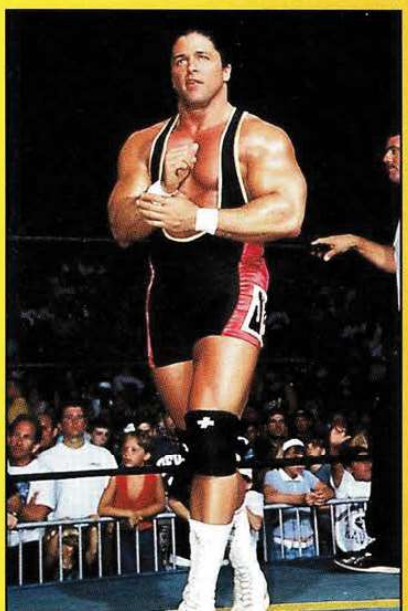
"Jim Powers is not a money-hungry person who requires flashy cars, big homes and yachts. I'm just a non-materialistic person who works hard day in and day out. I enjoy vacationing on the New Jersey beaches and spending time with my daughter, Jessica. There really isn't anything too out-of-the-ordinary about Jim Powers; I don't jump out of airplanes, skydive or parasail ... I'm just Jim Powers, professional wrestler," he said. "I feel, if I look good, I feel good about myself. And as long as the body and mind are still there, hey, then I will continue to wrestle. To me, working out in the gym, even if it's for only an hour or so, is kind of like a warm up to my match."

Powers has been wrestling professionally (in singles and tag team matches) for about 12 years and his won-loss record ... well, it hovers near the .500 mark, at best. Even though he possesses great speed, athleticism, desire and a never-say-die attitude.

"Jim Powers has been considered a young lion in professional wrestling for, oh, 10-plus years. And rightfully so. He's a phenomenon," said former wrestler Terry Taylor. "Jim has a great body, a tremendous desire and, even though he's over-matched in 90 percent of the matches he's in, he always runs to the ring, is enthusiastic and has a big smile on his face. You always know that you are going to get 100 percent out of Jimmy Powers. I'm a big fan of Jim Powers. He's a good person who really loves the sport of professional wrestling. I would love to see Jim Powers crack the top ten of active wrestlers."

Powers has been guided of late by manager Teddy Long, and both are pleased by the arrangement.

"I see nothing but good things happening in the future for Jimmy Powers. Teddy and I seem to click together quite well," Powers said. "Over the years, it seems as though I never could get the right guidance, the right management and the right person to help me with my career ... until I got together with Teddy earlier this summer. We've watched a lot of films of my old matches and Teddy has given me a lot of good pointers, shown me a lot of my mistakes. For instance, times when I have backed off (from an opponent) as opposed to being more aggressive. Teddy has instilled a little more aggressiveness and a little more fire."



Said Long, who also manages Sgt. Craig "Pitbull" Pittman and Ice Train, "The thing that impresses me the most about Jim Powers is his attitude. What I mean by that is, you have to have a good attitude to be a successful wrestler. And Jim certainly has a good attitude, one that will help him overcome the frustration of, say, an opponent who is pulling hair or any other cheap-shot. Jim has the ability to step into the ring with the best, stand toe-to-toe with them ... and come out victorious."

Powers reached his apex in the wrestling world in the late-1980s, when he and Paul Roma formed The Young Stallions. Fans still vividly recall, according to Powers, that upstart duo which, on several occasions, upset The Hart Foundation (Bret "Hitman" Hart and Jim "Anvil" Neidhart) in non-title matches.

"Like anyone else, in any other business or sport, I too want to excel and be the best I can be. And I don't think I've gotten there yet. I'm not satisfied with where Jim Powers is at right now. I want to go higher and I'm not ready to give up until I get there," he said. "Like anyone else in professional wrestling, I someday would like to have a championship belt around my waist, be it the WCW U.S. title, the WCW TV title or the WCW World Heavyweight Championship. But I know I first have to take small steps, then think about walking or running."

Said Long, "I have the experience that Jimmy lacks, so hopefully we can reach championship gold together."

As strange as it may be, wrestling isn't The Barbarian's favorite sport. Sure, wrestling is the sport he has excelled at the most, the one he competes in on a near-daily basis, the one through which he has earned mega-bucks and the one in which he has reached national notoriety.

But, on the Island of Tonga, his native country, rugby is king. And that's The Barbarian's first-love, followed closely by American football. And, if you count bodybuilding as a sport, that ranks right up there as well.

Wrestling is just The Barbarian's passion, his path to championship status, his avenue for destruction and inflicting pain. He has watched wrestling since he was a kid and is now in his 16th year as a pro.

"I know I am getting older and that there are many young, up-and-coming wrestlers coming into the sport on a daily basis ... that's why my drive for the WCW World Tag Team Championship is stronger than ever. I'm very hungry for a title shot and, when I get that shot, we will win," The Barbarian barked, his strong Tongan accent showing through. "We want a title around our waist, and we want it now!!"

We is, of course, The Faces of Fear, the violent duo of Meng and The Barbarian, the Jimmy Hart-guided pair that thrives on pain — other people's pain, that is.

The Barbarian is, unquestionably, among the five strongest competitors in the wrestling business, right there with Meng, Scott "Flash" Norton, The Giant and Ice Train. And not necessarily in that order. His ally Meng is a natural animal, a powerhouse with legs.

The Barbarian is a power-lifting fanatic, a mass of muscle brought together through countless repetitions at the bench press and in squatting. He once bench-pressed 630-pounds and, in the past, has squatted 805-pounds.

"The lifting really helps me in my matches, especially when I go against anyone larger than me. I know I can handle them," he said. "If I hadn't done all of this lifting, I don't know if I would be able to handle those opponents."

A lifelong lifter, The Barbarian has competed in numerous amateur competition, like a 1987 event in Puerto Rico in which he won with his combined weight from the bench press, deadlift and squat. The Barbarian also placed second (by only 13 points) at a competition in Detroit, Mich.

"To be a good bench press lifter, you have to have heavy/strong shoulders and also strong triceps ... and I certainly do," he said.

The Barbarian also has incredibly strong legs, which he developed through years of rugby competition. The Barbarian was his team's main man pushing the scrum; he was in the No. 7 position, which is one of the strongest on the unit.

"Tonga is 160 islands and only 50 are inhabited ... and almost everywhere people in Tonga play rugby," he said.

The Barbarian switched to wrestling — sumo wrestling, that is — at age 14 when he was sent to Japan to train the sumo style. He was there for six years before returning to the United States. And that's when he developed his interest in football. Namely, the Oakland Raiders.

"I'm a diehard Raiders fan. I don't care if they are good one year, then bad the next. I stick with them through good and bad. Raiders all the way," said The Barbarian, who tabbed Hall of Famer Ted Hendricks as his favorite football player.

The Barbarian, once known as King Konga during his days in Tennessee, was formerly one half of The Powers of Pain, a team that pitted him with the monstrous Warlord. The team's highlight: capturing the NWA Six-Man Titles (with Ivan Koloff) over Dusty Rhodes and The Road Warriors.

"The Powers of Pain was not the greatest team in wrestling history, but we were a good unit. We had some great battles, and went through good times and bad times together," said the 6-foot-4, 285-pound Barbarian. "I am now thrilled to be a part of The Dungeon of Doom. I love it in the Dungeon. We don't go out to please people; we don't care about the fans. We just want to win. Sure, we're ugly and mean, but that's our way. I enjoy it."

Yep, this is a force to be reckoned with.

BARBARIAN
the name says it all

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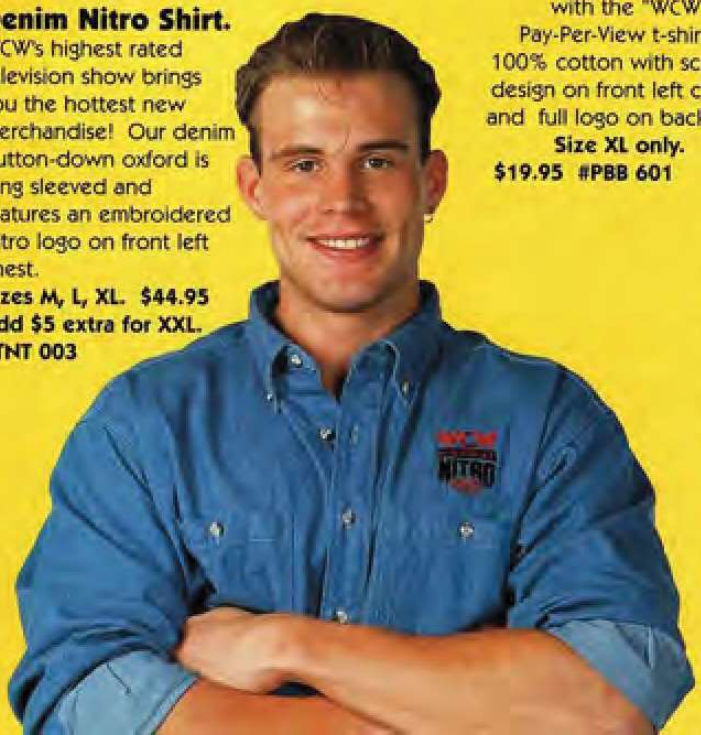

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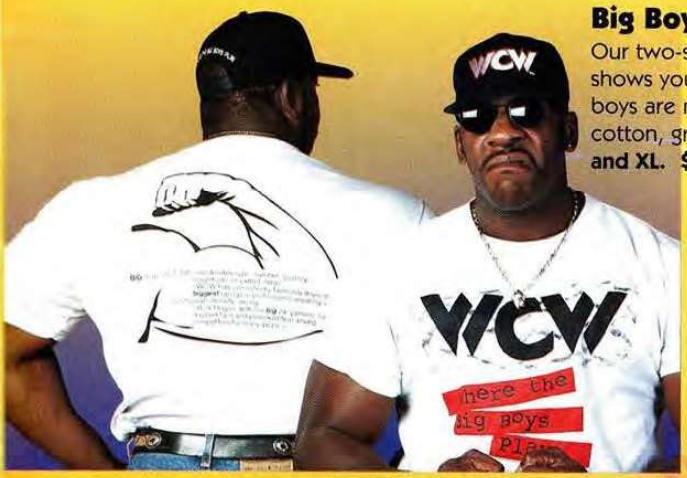
Commemorate the first WCW Hog Wild Pay-Per-View event with our official WCW Hog Wild t-shirt. 100% cotton black shirt with WCW and wings on front left chest. Full logo is on back of shirt. **Size XL only. $21.95 #PHW 601**



Big Boys T-Shirt.

Our two-sided muscle shirt shows you what OUR big boys are made of. 100% cotton, gray. **Sizes M, L, and XL. $19.95 #WCW 003**

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TO ORDER BY PHONE CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-WCW-8468

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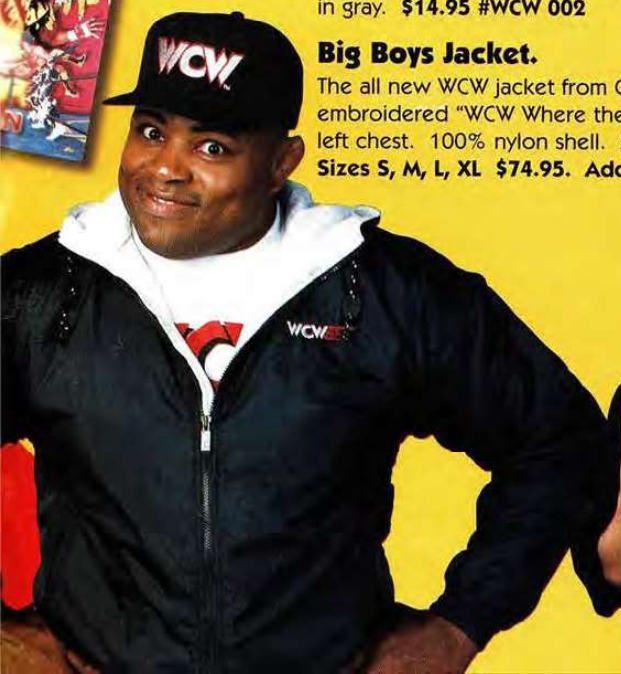
WCW Posters.

Create your own wall of fame with these superstar posters by Photofile. 24"x 35". **$6.95 each. Randy Savage #MMN 061 Sting #STG 061**



WCW Logo Hat.

Acrylic/wool blend w/ adj. snap back. Gray embroidered WCW logo with red trim. "Where The Big Boys Play" on back in gray. **$14.95 #WCW 002**

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WCW Action Figures.

Collect all the WCW action figures and Tag Teams to create your own matches! **Individuals: $6.95 Tag Teams: $12.95**

Please specify for individuals: **Sting #STG 060, Hulk Hogan #HHG 060 Ric Flair #FLR 060, Jimmy Hart #HRT 060**

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IV Horseman T-Shirt.

The IV Horseman are back and riding higher than ever! Black tee with full screenedl logo on front. 100% pre-shrunk cotton. **Sizes XL only. $21.95 #IVH 001**

WCW Motorsports Golf Shirt.

Finish ahead of the pack with the all new Official WCW Motorsports golf shirt. 100% cotton white pique with checkered flag collar. Embroidered logo on chest **Sizes S, M, L, XL. $39.95 XXL add $5.00 #MTR 002**

Kick Wrestle & Roll WITH MADUSA

October, 1996

Dear Ross:

Well, I'm once again late with this column, but that's how it goes. Deal with it. Love me not hate me. As I sit here typing away, I have so many scoops to share with you and the world ... but I can't. Sorry? Not at all. Live life, Ross, and stop bugging me about deadlines. I'll let you know when I'm ready. OK?! And, pretty soon you'll be begging me for stories.

THE NWO. As in, The New Women's Organization. How about FIT? As in, Feminine Intelligent and Tough. Sounds good, I say. What do the guys say? Well, they will do what's best for them; always have, always will. If they do what I think they will do, infinity is on their side. Beauty and the Beasts. It's like the Animal Kingdom. In this world, Silverbacks are the King of the Jungle and He has several females all treated the same. Some stronger, some weaker. The strongest survive, but sometimes without the one she really loves. Not by her choice, but, again, by the male ego, and this thing called dedication. You see, when a Silverback is finished with the one He really loves, He moves her aside for the others, for reasons unknown. That is the beauty of these wonderful creatures. Now it's my turn.

Ross, let's talk about Jeff Jarrett ... what a puss! I bet JJ and Hulk Hogan have a deal later on to take over the State of Tennessee! I mean, get real Jarrett, you come out on Nitro crying that Hogan has never put a meal on your table, or your daddy's table. Well, by the look of things, sweetheart, you could skip a meal or two, and it would be good for you! Hey, JJ, you window sill lover. I know the real reason why you are here and if you want me to spill the beans, push me, you fake!! I bet you couldn't even hold a musical note if you tried. If you want some real lessons, I've got friends who could help you. But, then again, being a roadie fits you!!

On the subject of music, I ran into some of my friends in Orlando and we agree: Nicklebag is the hottest band out there today!! Stevie Salas, whatta babe! By the way, "what a shot" ... can you do it again? And Bernard Fowler, who blows away the lead singer from Living Color, he's awesome! Ross, my dear, you must see these guys ... even you would like them, as square as you are. Hey, Muzz, I haven't heard from you in a while ... what are you doing now? Still playing? Call me. Call WCW. Leave a number. So I know it's you, where did we have lunch? What state?

Men, I love them! When you think about it, it really is all our (women's) fault for the way they are. OK, you bunch of locked-up housemites that never get out ... don't sit there and yell and scream at me, damn it! Truth hurts? We are the ones that stifle these poor men into ... another women's arms. We put demands on these men like they are two. Because we want what's best? Ha! I love calling things the way they are. The big thing you have to worry about is, if men do it once, they will @#$$% it up again. Just call me Miss Encouragement. That leads me to Sting-aroo, Mr. Save-The-Day. He has been with WCW (zzzzzzzzzz) for tooooooo loooooooong ... he needs a break. Unless he can really save WCW, that is. Somebody help him. Savage? Now there's a wide-open Silverback. Make sure there are other people around so, when you have a conversation with him, you can figure out what the hell Savage is saying. I think the only thing Mr. Savage can do is, snap into a Slim Jim and then some. Mons Venus, hmmmm. How about them Braves?

So Gizzard Lizard, Miss Elizabeth, how does it feel to be chasing a loser once again? So you really want him back? What about Cary? Hey, Cary, if you are here for more than six months, you're doing well. Good luck!

Hey, Debra, your husband has a parrot on a leash. Mr. McMichael is the "Gertie Gossip" of WCW. He is a guy who, if you tell him one thing, seven people will know within 15 minutes. When all else fails on the gossip trail, telegraph, telephone, tell-a-McMichael!!!!!

Does anyone actually understand Woman? Does anyone really care?

Harlem Heat has a good thing going? Sherri and Col. Parker. Yikes! I've kicked his tail and will soon have my day with Sherri.

Diamond Dallas Page ... where is your girl? I predict it will be true love very soon.

Well, ROSS, that's about it for this month. I guess it's time for me to say goodnight, Ross ... Goodnight, Ross.

Ciao,

Madusa

Is Madusa all she appears to be?

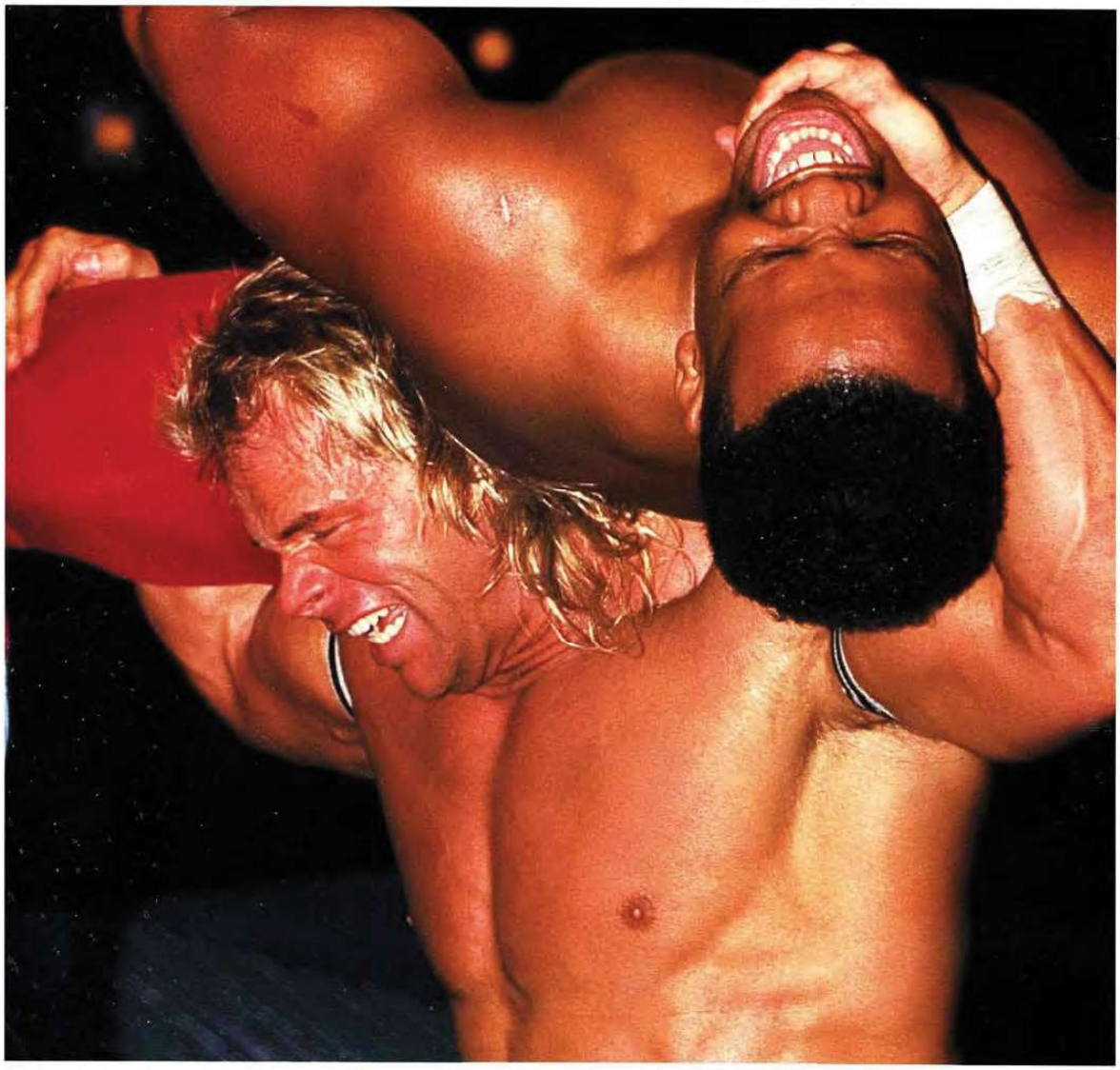
EDITOR'S NOTE:

After repeated leaving messages on Madusa's answering machine, sending her FAXes and even E-mailing her about the status of her column, WCW Magazine Executive Editor Ross Forman received this letter from Madusa, on stationary that said: Mad(e) in the USA.

PUBLIC ENEMY
WCW magazine

World Championship Wrestling

NOT YOUR TYPICAL WARM, FUZZY HOLIDAY SPECIAL



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